THE BURNING PRINCE

A FOUR-PART STORY BY JOHN DORNEY

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

THE DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON
A time-space traveller.

SHIRA:
(F) Leader of the Sorsha forces. Tough, uncompromising, but intelligent and warm.

AMBASSADOR TUVOLD:
(M, 40s) Gadarel representative. Career politician, out of his depth, nervy.

PRINCE KYLO:
(M, e20s) Heir to the Sorsha throne. A bit ADD, emotional, prone to burst of anger.

COMMANDER CORWYN:
(M, 30s-40s) First officer. Down the line, solid, no-nonsense.

ALTUS:
(M, 50s) Science officer. Grumpy, impatient, dour.

RIGA:
(F, 30s) Pilot. Sardonic, focused. Mildly racist.

TYRON:
(M, 30s) Soldier. Career military grunt. Natural follower.

PRINCESS ALIONA/LUDAN:
(F, e20s) Heir to the Gadarel throne. Elegant and romantic. Idealised, but concealing insanity/Sorsha soldier.

DIRECTOR: KEN BENTLEY
SCRIPT EDITOR: ALAN BARNES **PRODUCER:** DAVID RICHARDSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: NICHOLAS BRIGGS & JASON HAIGH-ELLERY

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PART ONE

OPENING THEME

1: EXT./INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

(SPACE. EMPTY. A SPACESHIP, THE ALENDRA, BURSTS INTO HEARING. MOVE INSIDE: HI-TECH EQUIPMENT. READ-OUTS CHATTER. MUTED MILITARY ACTIVITY)

RIGA
And we're out of the warpstream.

SHIRA
Adjust speed for normal space.

RIGA
(OPERATING CONTROLS) Captain.

SHIRA
Regulate systems and lower protective shields. Scan for their beacon. Is it transmitting?

RIGA
Operating trace.

(RIGA PRESSES BUTTONS. TENSE SILENCE. THEN A REPEATING TONE FILLS THE ROOM)

SHIRA
Excellent. There we are.

RIGA
Locking onto signal now. (PRESSES BUTTONS)

SHIRA
Thank you, Pilot.

CORWYN
Might be on automatic.

SHIRA
Optimism costs nothing, Commander.

RIGA
CPI signal is locked in.

SHIRA
Set a course for planet-fall as near as possible to the source of transmission.

RIGA
Setting course. (BUTTONS PRESSED) Estimated arrival… thirty-four minutes.

SHIRA
Commander. Have Prince Kylo and Ambassador Tuvold meet me in the ops room in five minutes. Inform the troops of our ETA and order them to prepare for engagement.

CORWYN
Ma'am.

SHIRA
Empire be praised.

CORWYN
Empire be praised.

(A DOOR SLIDES OPEN, CORWYN EXITS)

SHIRA
Pilot Riga. Set engines to full oar.

RIGA
Ma'am.

SHIRA
Let's see how this goes.

(RIGA HITS SOME BUTTONS. THE SHIP ENGINES BURN)

2: INT. ALENDRA (LAB)

(SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT. COMPUTERS BEEPING, TAKING READOUTS. MONITORS. A FERAL CREATURE, AN IGRIS, GROWLS AND PACES IN A CELL BEHIND AN ELECTRICAL FORCEWALL)

KYLO
There, there. Calm down. Would you like some food?

IGRIS
(ROARS, LUNGES)

(A HISS OF ENERGY. IT'S PUSHED BACK)

KYLO
No, no, careful. Only hurt yourself when you do that, remember? Keep away from the forcewall.

IGRIS
(WHIMPERS)

KYLO
There we are. Good boy. Good boy. Here you go.

(HE PRESSES SOME BUTTONS. FOOD IS VENTED INTO THE CELL. IT SCRABBLES FOR THE FOOD. A DOOR HISSES OPEN BEHIND KYLO. ALTUS ENTERS)

See. Just needed a little patience, didn't you?

ALTUS
Prince Kylo?

KYLO
(JUMPS) I didn't do anything!

ALTUS
(SIGHS) Again? Must we do this again? I've told you before, your highness, the Igris isn't a pet.

KYLO
I know, but…

(ALTUS BRUSHES PAST KYLO AND STARTS TO MANIPULATE COMPUTER CONTROLS)

ALTUS
It's an eight foot tall bipedal killing machine. A sabre-toothed emissary of death. That's why it's caged. Those claws could rip your head off in a second, do you really think it's wise to let it out and stroke its fur?

KYLO
I didn't let him out.

ALTUS
(HIS COMPUTER BEEPS. READS) Life signs stable. Forcewall secure…

KYLO
See, I'm not stupid!

ALTUS
Well, you've been trying very hard to give that impression.

KYLO
(BEAT) He just seems in such pain…

ALTUS
He's an experimental subject, a laboratory specimen, he's supposed to be in pain. And it's not a he, it's an 'it'.

KYLO
'It' then. 'It' seems to be in pain.

ALTUS
(BEAT) Have you been keeping up your medication?

KYLO
What? Oh. Yes. My medication. My beloved medication, yes, of course I have.

ALTUS
Really?

KYLO
Yes! I've no choice.

ALTUS
Good. (COMPUTER BEEPS. READING) Aggression levels increasing… well, that's only to be expected, I suppose.

KYLO
He's not as bad as you think, you know. The Igris.

ALTUS
Isn't it.

KYLO
I think I'm getting through to him, you see. I think he's… learning. He comes when I call. When I enter the room. Like he knows me.

ALTUS
It knows you bring food.

KYLO
Sometimes… it's like I can hear him. Hear his… mind…

ALTUS
(TO HIMSELF) And download… (PRESSES BUTTONS, THE COMPUTER WHIRRS) Sorry, what was that?

KYLO
Oh, nothing. Nothing. Thinking aloud. He wants to be left alone, you know. Just wants to be left alone.

ALTUS
Really. Then perhaps you should concede to his desires. (THE COMPUTER BEEPS) There we are, done. (A SMALL DEVICE POPS OUT. HE POCKETS IT. HE STARTS TO MOVE FOR THE DOOR)

KYLO
What are you doing?

ALTUS
I've downloaded the research. Captain Shira wants it as soon as possible.

KYLO
She — (BEAT) We're nearly there?

ALTUS
You can hear we're out of the warpstream.

KYLO
I thought the ship sounded different.

ALTUS
Then it seems a logical inference.

(THE DOOR SLIDES OPEN. CORWYN ENTERS)

CORWYN
Prince Kylo! I was told you might be in the lab. We came out of warpstream a few minutes ago. Captain Shira wants you to meet her in the operations room for a briefing.

KYLO
Is there any word from Aliona?

CORWYN
(BEAT) No. Nothing concrete. There's a signal, but no reason to assume it was operated manually.

KYLO
(BEAT) She's alive.

CORWYN
We don't know that for certain…

KYLO
I know what I know. She's alive. She must be. I can't have come all this way for nothing. Empire be praised! She's alive!

3: INT. ALENDRA (ANNEXE)

(THE TARDIS MATERIALISES. AFTER A MOMENT THE DOORS OPEN)

DOCTOR
(CALLING OUT FROM INSIDE) Nyssa, Tegan! It's me, I'm —

(HE STEPS OUT AND STOP HIMSELF. QUIETER NOW. WALKS AROUND)

Ah. Right. Unless it's had quite a radical design overhaul I'm fairly certain this isn't a Youth Hostel. Probably not even Amsterdam. Some kind of spaceship? (JUMPS UP AND DOWN, TESTING GRAVITY) Certainly artificial gravity. Let's see what's through [here, shall we —]

(HE OPERATES A DOOR. BEHIND, TEN SOLDIERS CASUALLY TALKING AMONGST THEMSELVES AND PREPPING WEAPONRY:)

SOLDIERS:
Warpstream jump makes me sick. —
Oh, man! Broken bowstring. —
And she said, you're a little short for a Sorsha trooper. —

(THEY ALL GO SUDDENLY SILENT)

DOCTOR:
Ah.

TYRON
Who in Empire's -?

DOCTOR
Soldiers, yes, of course, what else was it going to be? I imagine this doesn't look too good.

TYRON
Draw bows!

(LASER LONGBOWS ARE DRAWN)

DOCTOR
Laser longbows, well at least you're original.

TYRON
Stay where you are!

DOCTOR
Funnily enough I wasn't planning on moving.

TYRON
Hands in the air.

DOCTOR
I'm way ahead of you.

TYRON
You're under arrest.

DOCTOR
Am I? Oh, what a surprise. Honestly, what was that, thirty seconds? Well, at least I've got it over with.

TYRON
You're coming to the bridge.

DOCTOR
But of course I am, I'd expect nothing less.

TYRON
This way!

DOCTOR
Yes, yes, alright, I'm walking, I'm walking, I know the drill…

(THEY MARCH OFF)

4: INT. ALENDRA (OPERATIONS ROOM)

(QUIETER THAN THE BRIDGE. A DOOR HISSES OPEN. KYLO ENTERS)

KYLO
Captain.

SHIRA
You're late.

KYLO
I know, I… sorry. Sorry, Ambassador.

TUVOLD
That's quite alright, your highness.

SHIRA
Well let's not waste any more time.

KYLO
Can I get a glass of water?

SHIRA
(BEAT. UNIMPRESSED) Yes. That's the food dispenser.

(KYLO GOES TO A FOOD MACHINE UNDER, PRESSES SOME BUTTONS AND IS VENTED SOME WATER IN A GLASS. SHIRA PRESSES SOME BUTTONS IN THE FOREGROUND. A HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY BUZZES INTO LIFE)

There we are, gentlemen. Sharnax. Our destination.

TUVOLD
Right. Uninspiring, isn't it?

SHIRA
You'd never think such a nondescript planetoid would cause so much trouble. Still. It's the little stuff you overlook that gets you in the end. Now we're close we've been able to establish a firmer location trace. The beacon signal's transmitting from this spot here. Quite a lot of the planet's marshland, but that bit's firm enough. Should be able to drop a lander pretty close.

TUVOLD
If it's firm ground there's less chance of survivors, surely.

SHIRA
Depends whether they had time to launch a life raft. We won't know for sure until we check. (SHE PRESSES SOME BUTTONS, THE HOLOGRAM FADES) The good news is this means we can send all the troops. They're prepping their bows. I'm leading the landing party.

TUVOLD
You are?

SHIRA
Corwyn's perfectly capable of command if anything goes wrong.

KYLO
When do we leave?

SHIRA
We?

KYLO
I'm coming with you.

(BEAT. SHIRA LAUGHS)

SHIRA
No, your highness. No, you're not.

KYLO
But… I've got to go. This is my betrothed - .

SHIRA
Yes. And if we rescue her I'm sure she'd like a husband to come back to.

KYLO
I'm the heir to the Royal House of Sorsha. Your ruling family. I order you to take me with you.

SHIRA
You don't have jurisdiction on my ship, your highness. It's my command, a <u>military</u> command. <u>I</u> order <u>you</u>. Keeping you informed's a courtesy, not an obligation. I was letting you know the state of play, it wasn't an invitation.

KYLO
Lead from the front, you said —

SHIRA
You're staying here. I'm sorry.

(A COMMUNICATOR BEEPS. SHIRA ANSWERS)

Shira.

RIGA
(OVER COMMUNICATOR) Captain, this is Riga. We've a report from one of the troopers. He's found a stowaway.

SHIRA
What? Where?

RIGA
(DISTORT) Armoury three annexe. He's in the brig.

SHIRA
(BEAT) Thank you Pilot, Shira out.

(SHE SWITCHES OFF THE COMMUNICATOR)

TUVOLD
A stowaway?

SHIRA
A seemingly suicidal one, this is hardly a pleasure cruise. With me, Ambassador. This might have political ramifications.

TUVOLD
Er… yes.

KYLO
And me?

SHIRA
You're staying here.

KYLO
(BEAT. SUDDEN INTENSITY) Why does everyone treat me as if I'm made out of glass?

SHIRA
I'm sorry, your highness, but I've got to keep you safe. This man's potentially dangerous, we can't risk your life.

KYLO
I don't need to be coddled, I'm not a fool!

SHIRA
No one thinks you are. But your father's lost two sons, I doubt he'd care to lose another. I'm sorry. Ambassador.

TUVOLD
Captain.

(SHIRA AND TUVOLD EXIT. WITH A CRY, KYLO KNOCKS ASIDE A CHAIR)

KYLO
Idiot woman. Telling me what to do. Who does she think she is?!

(HIS WATER STARTS TO BUBBLE AND BOIL IN ITS GLASS)

Just you wait, Shira Calanah. Just you - (SUDDEN PAIN) Ah!

(HE DROPS THE GLASS. IT SHATTERS)

The water – it… it boiled, I… oh no. NO!

5: INT. ALENDRA (BRIG)

(DOORS OPEN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM. SHIRA AND TUVOLD ENTER)

DOCTOR
So this is a sort of space-faring feudalistic society, is it?

TYRON
Quiet.

DOCTOR
Must be, what, thirty of you on board? Er, do you mind not pointing that arrow at my head, it's awfully disconcerting…

SHIRA
That must be him.

TUVOLD
Apparently so.

(SHIRA'S GROUP WALK TOWARDS THE DOCTOR)

DOCTOR
Are all your weapons derived from bowstring armaments or do you have any more conventional projectile weaponry…?

TYRON
I said quiet!

DOCTOR
Well, you were the one that insisted on dragging me up here. If you didn't want a conversation, why on Earth did you keep me around?

(SHIRA'S GROUP HAVE REACHED HIM)

TYRON
Now look here — !

SHIRA
At ease, trooper.

TYRON
(BEAT) Ma'am.

DOCTOR
Oh, and just when we'd broken the ice too.

SHIRA
Is this the intruder?

DOCTOR
What tipped you off? You must be the Captain. Shira, wasn't it? (SHAKES HER HAND) That's what this gentleman here called you. I'm the Doctor. How do you do?

SHIRA
How do I do what?

DOCTOR
Well… (BEAT) You know I've honestly no idea.

SHIRA
Tyron, isn't it, Trooper?

TYRON
Yes, ma'am.

SHIRA
Talk to me, Tyron.

TYRON
He's a spy, ma'am.

DOCTOR
Oh not again. Why do they always go for 'spy'?

TYRON
We found him in the armoury three annexe.

DOCTOR
Technically, I found you.

TYRON
Whatever. We were getting ready and he was there. Spying. Must be Gadarel.

TUVOLD
What?

DOCTOR
Oh for goodness' — Look, I am not working for anyone. I told you. I'm not a spy. I am never a spy. A spy would ask questions, find out troop numbers, make all manner of enquiries about the weapons you've got on board, etcetera, etcetera and I'm not doing myself any favours, am I?

SHIRA
No.

DOCTOR
I'll shut up now.

SHIRA
Well, Ambassador?

TUVOLD
He's nothing to do with me, I've never seen him before in my life.

SHIRA
(DRILY) Because if he was a spy you'd admit it immediately.

TUVOLD
Captain, why would we smuggle someone on board? I'm here. What could he learn undercover I couldn't find out legitimately?

SHIRA
Relax, Tuvold. No, I don't think he's a spy.

DOCTOR
At last, someone who listens.

SHIRA
I think he's a saboteur.

DOCTOR
Brilliant.

SHIRA
He was found near armoury three, Ambassador. That's where we keep the flare charges. One of those could blast a hole half a mile long in the side of this ship, two'd take us out of the sky.

TUVOLD
A bomb?

SHIRA
Not everyone from House Gadarel supports the peace initiative and the marriage, you must know that.

TUVOLD
Not everyone from House Sorsha either.

SHIRA
I'm by no means ruling us out. There's plenty on both sides who'd do anything to see this mission fail.

TUVOLD
Including kill the heir to their own throne?

SHIRA
Lose the battle, win the war. Somebody brought Aliona's ship down, remember.

DOCTOR
Er, if I might be permitted to make a suggestion?

SHIRA
(BEAT) Yes?

DOCTOR
Look, I'm sure this is a fascinating discussion, but it is all rather academic. I'm not a spy or a saboteur, a Sorsha or Gadarel, whatever they are, I'm a traveller. A simple traveller, a wanderer in the stars. I arrived here by accident no more than ten minutes ago. This is honestly a misunderstanding.

SHIRA
A wanderer in the stars?

DOCTOR
Yes.

SHIRA
Who happened to wander into the armoury of a military transport vessel? It's a bit off the tourist track, you'll forgive me if I find the concept hard to believe.

DOCTOR
Well, it wasn't deliberate, obviously. I have a transport capsule, it can be a trifle… <u>wilful</u> at times, you can't always be sure where you're going to end up. I was actually heading for Amsterdam.

TUVOLD
Where?

DOCTOR
Amsterdam, Holland, that's not important right now, look, what say I take you down to, um… the annexe, that's what you called it, wasn't it Tyron?

TYRON
What?

DOCTOR
The annexe, yes. Why don't I take you down to the annexe, I can show you my travel capsule. It is all totally innocent, I promise you.

(PAUSE)

SHIRA
Very well.

TUVOLD
You're not going?

TYRON
Could be a trap, ma'am.

SHIRA
Well, of course it could be a trap, that's the point. Want to see what your enemy's planning, sometimes you've got to spring them. Alright, 'Doctor'. I'm willing to take you at your word.

DOCTOR
Good.

SHIRA
Tuvold, let Corwyn know what's happening.

TUVOLD
You don't want me with you?

SHIRA
We're already dealing with one interplanetary incident, Ambassador, we could do without another. Tyron can keep him under guard.

TYRON
Ma'am.

DOCTOR
Oh, I'll be no trouble.

SHIRA
You'd better not. Alright then, 'wanderer'. Lead the way!

6: INT. ALENDRA (CREW ROOM)

(GENERAL MARINE CHAT IN THE BACKGROUND:

MARINES:
Right, come on everyone, we've got ten minutes, we need to be ready in ten minutes. —
How many arrowbolts we gonna need?
Watch it, don't point that at me when it's loaded. —
Get your ugly mug out of my face. —

(… ETC. LOCKERS BEING OPENED AND CLOSED. PEOPLE DRESSING. BANDAK AND LUDAN ARE TALKING IN THE FOREGROUND. LUDAN PUTTING ON HER UNIFORM, BANDAK PLAYING WITH HIS BOW)

LUDAN
(ROOTING AROUND IN LOCKER) Where's my belt…

BANDAK
Look at it. Beautiful. Don't get craftsmanship like this any more. Double nocked. One pump and — (HE PUMPS HIW BOW) — there you go. Two arrowbolts ready to fire.

LUDAN
Ah, here it is. (CLOSES LOCKER) Sometimes it's like you're married to that bow.

BANDAK
Would be if they'd let me. Ain't met a woman better. Present company excepted.

LUDAN
(PUTTING ON BELT) Course.

BANDAK
You're practically a man though, anyway.

LUDAN
Mate, we're supposed to be getting ready, not drooling over the bows… Get your armour (on) — Ah, nuts, left me battery in the bunk. How long we got?

BANDAK
Quarter of an hour?

LUDAN
Don't drop without me. (SHE HEADS FOR THE DOOR)

BANDAK
'Bout time she saw some action. Shame it ain't gonna be Gadarel, but —

(LUDAN OPENS THE DOOR. THE IGRIS STANDS BEHIND IT, GROWLING)

LUDAN
No! (SCREAMS AS…)

IGRIS
(ROARS)

(IT SLASHES LUDAN IN TWO)

BANDAK
What in Empire's — ? The Igris? How did — ?

(IT CHARGES INTO THE ROOM. STARTS CUTTING AND SLASHING AT ALL THE TROOPERS)

Draw strings!

(THE IGRIS IS SLASHING AND KILLING EVERYWHERE. BANDAK AND OTHER TROOPERS DRAW THEIR BOWSTRINGS)

Fire! (HE DOES. A DOUBLE SHOT) And fire! (AGAIN)

(IT CONTINUES TO SLASH AND KILL)

7: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR)

(SHIRA, TYRON AND THE DOCTOR WALKING)

DOCTOR
Tell me, Captain. This voyage of yours. It's a rescue mission, isn't it?

TYRON
Quiet!

SHIRA
Let him speak. Doctor, for someone who claims they're not a spy, you're certainly paying attention.

DOCTOR
Well, I do like to keep my ears open.

SHIRA
You really don't know?

DOCTOR
I really don't.

SHIRA
(BEAT) Call me insane, but I'm almost beginning to believe you.

DOCTOR
I have that effect on most people. You said something about a downed ship. Aliona's?

SHIRA
Yes. Princess Aliona. Her wedding galley.

DOCTOR
Her — Of course. The peace initiative and the marriage. With Houses Sorsha and Gadarel as the happy couple.

SHIRA
She's marrying Prince Kylo of the Sorsha. If you really only did arrive in this sector ten minutes ago, you pick things up remarkably quickly.

DOCTOR
What can I say, it's a gift. You're trying to unite two feuding families.

SHIRA
That's right.

DOCTOR
Royal Families, no less. A battle for the crown?

SHIRA
(BEAT) You are good aren't you.

DOCTOR
Oh, one doesn't like to boast.

SHIRA
The Gadarel and the Sorsha have been at war since the mad Emperor was deposed decades ago. The heads of both houses claim dominion over the Drashani empire.

DOCTOR
But of course they do, the Drashani empire. So that's where we are.

SHIRA
You know it?

DOCTOR
Only by reputation.

SHIRA
What's its reputation?

DOCTOR
A galaxy-spanning civilisation to rival Earth's. The glory of Rome set among the stars. You know, I've never been here before, how fascinating.

SHIRA
Rome?

(AS THEY MOVE, WE BEGIN TO HEAR THE BATTLE IN THE CREW ROOM DISTANTLY AHEAD)

DOCTOR
So to create a peace, marriage is brokered between the houses.

SHIRA
Valdarn Gadarel was gaining the upper hand but he was killed in battle a few months back. His daughter's sole heir and she's got a far less warlike temperament. And far less design for power.

DOCTOR
Two families ruling as one. Well, it's worked before, it's a classic gambit.

SHIRA
(DISTRACTED) Can you hear that?

DOCTOR
But it's all threatened when one of the affianced parties is lost, so to speak, at sea. Yes, I can quite see why you'd be in a hurry to get her back…

(A COMMUNICATOR BEEPS)

SHIRA
What now?

(SHE OPENS A CHANNEL. NOISE OF THE SLAUGHTER AND BOWFIGHT UP AHEAD FILTERS THROUGH)

BANDAK
(OVER COMMUNICATOR) Captain! Captain Shira, this is Trooper Bandak, this is an emergency, the Igris is out, I repeat, the Igris is — Aagh!

(HE'S KILLED, THE COMMUNICATION CUTS OUT)

SHIRA
Bandak? Come in! Bandak?

DOCTOR
What was that?

SHIRA
It came from the crew room! COME ON!

(THEY RUN OFF AS A GROUP)

8: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CREW ROOM)

(THE SOUNDS OF WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER INSIDE THE CREW ROOM. SCREAMS. ARROWS. ETC)

DOCTOR
Oh, no.

IGRIS
(ROARS, TURNING TO THE DOOR)

SHIRA
It's spotted us! Tyron, open fire, keep it back.

(IT ADVANCES)

TYRON
Ma'am!

(HE LAUNCHES OFF ARROW AFTER ARROW WITH HIS AUTOMATIC LONGBOW. SHIRA HITTING CONTROLS)

SHIRA
Come on, come on, locking code.

(THE DOOR HISSES SHUT. TYRON STOPS FIRING)

Right, get back, retreat, that won't last long…

(A HEAVY THUD FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR. SHIRA, TYRON AND THE DOCTOR RETREAT)

DOCTOR
But… but there were people in there!

SHIRA
They're dead. Let's not join them. Come on! (SHE OPERATES COMMUNICATOR)

TYRON
It'll be through any second.

SHIRA
I know. (INTO COMMUNICATOR) Corwyn? Corwyn, come in, Corwyn.

CORWYN
(OVER COMMUNICATOR) Ma'am?

SHIRA
The Igris is out.

CORWYN
(DISTORT) The Igris? How?

SHIRA
Does it matter how? It's out.

(THE DOOR AT THE OTHER END OF THE CORRIDOR IS SMASHED APART. THE IGRIS STEPS THROUGH GROWLING)

TYRON
Captain!

SHIRA
Open fire!

DOCTOR
What is that thing?

(TYRON FIRES WHILST RETREATING)

TYRON
I ain't stopping it!

SHIRA
Just need to keep it back. Corwyn! Send squads two and three to corridor C12.

CORWYN
(DISTORT) What about squad one, they're closer?

SHIRA
Yes, but they're dead, Corwyn, they're all dead! All remaining troops to corridor C12. (TO TYRON) Get behind the door, trooper.

(THE IGRIS IS CLOSING. SHIRA HITS THE DOOR CONTROL. IT SHUTS)

DOCTOR
Is this one going to hold any better?

(A CRUNCH FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THEY RETREAT RUNNING AGAIN)

SHIRA
Take a wild guess. (INTO COMMUNICATOR) Get Altus, Corwyn. I want his research. I want to know how to stop that thing!

CORWYN
(DISTORT) Ma'am.

SHIRA
And hurry, there's only so many bulkheads between us and the flight deck!

DOCTOR
What is that, Captain, an ‘Igris’?

SHIRA
Yes.

DOCTOR
What’s an Igris?

SHIRA
An unstoppable killing machine.

DOCTOR
I see. And how it did one get on board?

SHIRA
How d’you think? We brought it.

DOCTOR
What?

SHIRA
It’s a research tool. We’ve been trying to find a way of stopping them.

DOCTOR
Well, that experiment’s going to be a rather more practical proposition now, then isn’t it?

(THE IGRIS BREAKS THROUGH THE DOOR AGAIN)

SHIRA
Open fire!

(TYRON LETS OFF MORE ARROWS. TWENTY TROOPERS RUN UP BEHIND)

TROOPER
Reinforcements Ma’am.

SHIRA
Great. Open fire!

(THE REINFORCEMENTS SHOOT AUTOMATIC LASERBOWS AT THE IGRIS. IT KEEPS CLOSING, ROARING)

TYRON
It’s closing.

SHIRA
Maintain barrage! Keep it back as long as we can! Tyron. Take this man to the Bridge and stay with him.

TYRON
What?

DOCTOR
But I can help!

SHIRA
You don't know what we're up against, Doctor, always assuming you didn't let it out in the first place… Tyron, give me your bow —

TYRON
It's my job, Captain. Fall back.

SHIRA
That's an order, Trooper, follow it!

TYRON
(BEAT) Ma'am. Here you are. (HANDS OVER THE BOW.TO THE DOCTOR) You. This way.

DOCTOR
Right behind you.

(THE DOCTOR AND TYRON RUN OFF. SHIRA STARTS FIRING)

SHIRA
Keep firing!

(SOME TROOPERS AT THE FRONT ARE CUT DOWN, SCREAMING)

Alright, fall back! Fall back!

(THEY RETREAT, LOOSING ARROWS ALL THE TIME)

9: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

(COMPUTER READOUTS RUNNING)

RIGA
Life signs seventeen. Sixteen. (SPORADICALLY IN B/G:) [Fifteen. Fourteen. Thirteen. Twelve. Eleven.]

TUVOLD
This is appalling.

RIGA
Oh, like you're not enjoying it, Gadarel.

TUVOLD
I beg your pardon?

CORWYN
Enough, Pilot! Job in hand!

KYLO
It's killing the lot of them!

CORWYN
You think I haven't noticed? How long til we hit atmosphere?

RIGA
(CHECKS A READING) Five minutes…

KYLO
They're dying!

CORWYN
We'll be dead too if we can't figure out how to stop that thing. Altus, talk to me.

ALTUS
There's nothing that works on the move, Commander, it's unstoppable.

CORWYN
Don't tell me that!

ALTUS
What do you want me to say?

KYLO
They're being slaughtered!

TUVOLD
This is an atrocity, we have to do something!

CORWYN
We're trying to! (OPERATING A COMMUNICATOR) Captain this is Corwyn, there's a negative from Altus, I repeat, a negative, I —

(TYRON AND THE DOCTOR ENTER, CORWYN SWITCHES OFF THE COMMUNICATOR)

TYRON
Commander.

CORWYN
Who's — ?

DOCTOR
I'm the Doctor.

TYRON
The stowaway!

DOCTOR
Lost traveller, there's a difference.

CORWYN
You did this!

DOCTOR
We don't have time to discuss it! Open a communication channel to Captain Shira!

CORWYN
But —

DOCTOR
Do it!

(CORWYN PRESSES BUTTONS. THE SOUND OF THE FIGHTING FILLS THE BRIDGE)

Captain? Captain Shira, are you there?

10: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR)

(THE IGRIS ATTACKING AND KILLING. ARROWS BEING LOOSED)

SHIRA
Doctor? What are you [doing on comms-?]

DOCTOR
(OVER COMMUNICATOR) Seriously, now is not the time for questions.

SHIRA
(CALLING OUT) Close the next bulkhead!

(A TROOPER TAPS IN A CODE. THE DOOR CLOSES)

Fall back.

(THEY RUN AS THE DOOR IS ATTACKED)

(INTO COMMUNICATOR) Alright, what, I can’t retreat forever.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) You said you brought that thing on board.

SHIRA
What of it?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Well, you must have had it caged otherwise it’d have run free ages ago.

SHIRA
Of course we did.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Then what was it caged with?

11: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

KYLO
A forcewall. We had it behind a forcewall –

DOCTOR
A force – Sorry, I don't think we've been introduced, I'm the Doctor.

KYLO
Kylo.

DOCTOR
Oh, the Prince! Congratulations on the engagement. Hope the actual marriage goes more smoothly.

RIGA
Three minutes to atmosphere.

CORWYN
This isn't helping!

SHIRA
(DISTORT) Doctor!

DOCTOR
Yes, of course, sorry, got a bit distracted, sorry. You can stop it with forcefields, is that right?

12: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR)

(THE IGRIS BURSTS THROUGH)

SHIRA
Fire at will! (INTO COMMUNICATOR AS A VOLLEY EXPLODES ROUND HER, THEY FIRE AND RETREAT) Yes, but we can't generate them in the corridors, we weren't prepared for this!

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Where can you generate them? It's following you, lure it there.

SHIRA
(BEAT) The Armouries! It's a failsafe if the ship's boarded.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Can you get to one quickly?

SHIRA
Yes, armoury three, where we were heading.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Then I suggest you get a move on.

SHIRA
Point taken. Out. (SHE CUTS OFF THE COMMUNICATOR) You heard the man, armoury three! Come on!

(THEY RUN, FIRING ARROWS, THE IGRIS PURSUING, KILLING)

13: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

(THE COMMUNICATOR CUTS)

RIGA
Life signs ten.

TUVOLD
No…

KYLO
We're going to lose them all, aren't we? We're going to die!

DOCTOR
We are not going to die! You, are you the Science officer?

ALTUS
Strictly speaking the medical officer, but I cover basic sciences, yes…

DOCTOR
Thought so, you had the look. Can you generate the armoury forcewall remotely from up here?

ALTUS
I — I don't know if I should be taking orders from a —

CORWYN
Do it, Altus! If it's possible, do it!

ALTUS
Er, then yes. Yes I can.

DOCTOR
Excellent. So if you would.

(ALTUS HEADS FOR CONTROLS, STARTS TO WORK THEM)

CORWYN
Doctor, what are you planning?

DOCTOR
Explanations can wait, we don't have the time. You. Tuvold, wasn't it?

TUVOLD
Yes.

DOCTOR
Give him any help he needs.

TUVOLD
Very well.

(HE JOINS ALTUS)

RIGA
Life signs five. Two minutes to atmosphere.

KYLO
We've got to stop this, we can't die, we have to save her!

CORWYN
We don't even know if she's alive, we're the priorities at the moment, remember that!

DOCTOR
(INTO COMMUNICATOR) Captain, are you nearly there? You're running out of men.

14: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ARMOURY)

(CHARGING THROUGH CORRIDORS. EIGHT TROOPERS FIRING. IGRIS CHASING)

SHIRA
I'd spotted that, thanks! Get that bulkhead down!

(A CODE IS TYPED. THE DOOR SLAMS DOWN. THE IGRIS BATTERS IT)

We're there. Trooper, operate priority override, one-one-five-nine.

TROOPER
Ma'am.

(HE TYPES IN A CODE)

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) We can operate the forcewall from the bridge, you just need to lure it in and get out.

SHIRA
Get inside, get to the back wall, we need it as far in as possible then we split and try to get round on the outside.

TROOPER
Will that work?

SHIRA
I really hope so.

(THE DOOR BEHIND HISSES OPEN)

Right, in!

(THEY CHARGE IN JUST AS THE IGRIS SMASHES THROUGH THE DOOR)

15: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

RIGA
Life signs four. One minute to atmosphere.

DOCTOR
Are there any more troopers?

CORWYN
Only Tyron. The rest are down there or dead.

TYRON
I could head back.

DOCTOR
You'd just be another corpse, Tyron, you're more use to us here.

KYLO
Please. For Aliona's sake. We have to survive this!

DOCTOR
That is the plan.

SHIRA
(OVER COMMUNICATOR) I'm in, are you ready?

DOCTOR
Altus, Tuvold?

ALTUS
Give me the word.

16: INT. ALENDRA (ARMOURY)

(THE IGRIS IS APPROACHING, WARILY. GROWLING)

TUVOLD
(DISTORT, DISTANT) Whenever you want.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Everyone's ready here.

SHIRA
(QUIETLY) Come on. Come on.

(IT'S CLOSER)

Alright, now!

(THE REMAINING FOUR MAKE A MOVE. WITH A GROWL, THE IGRIS SLASHES AND TAKES DOWN TWO. SHIRA AND TROOPER GET OUT)

We're out, hit it!

17: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

RIGA
Life signs two.

DOCTOR
Altus, now!

(ALTUS HITS THE BUTTON. SOMETHING ENORMOUS AND ENEGETIC POWERS UP — THEN DROPS OUT TO NOTHING ALMOST INSTANTLY)

What on — ?

CORWYN
Nothing's happening!

TUVOLD
It should have worked!

KYLO
No!

ALTUS
It's been sabotaged!

18: INT. ALENDRA (CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ARMOURY)

(THE IGRIS TURNS INSIDE THE ARMOURY AND HEADS FOR THE DOOR)

SHIRA
Doctor, it's heading back out! It's leaving the armoury, if you're going to do something, do it now!

ALTUS
(DISTORT) The entire system's down, that must be how it got free in the first place…

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Sorry, Captain, we've hit a little snag – someone's destroyed the forcewalls…

SHIRA
What? Then we're dead. (PAUSE) Trooper, can you get to a flare charge?

TROOPER
Captain, no, you can't – !

(THE IGRIS STEPS OUT AND KILLS HIM)

Aargh!

SHIRA
All right, I'll get it myself.

CORWYN
(DISTORT) Captain, what are you doing?

SHIRA
It's out of the armoury. It's just me now. The plan's failed!

IGRIS
(CHARGES HER, ROARING)

(SHE FIRES MULTIPLE ARROWS AT IT)

SHIRA
Oh no, you don't!

19: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

CORWYN
(INTO COMMS) Captain-? Answer me!

TYRON
She's heading into the armoury.

DOCTOR
I've an awful feeling –

RIGA
We've hit atmosphere.

20: INT. ALENDRA (ARMOURY)

(SHIRA SCRAMBLES IN, FIRING ARROWS AS THE IGRIS FOLLOWS. GRABS WHAT SHE'S AFTER)

SHIRA
There we are, one flare charge. (INTO COMMUNICATOR) Riga, you're the best pilot in the fleet, if anyone can do this, it's you.

RIGA
(DISTORT, DISTANT) Captain — ?

SHIRA
(SHE FLICKS A SWITCH ON THE CHARGE. IT BUZZES) And primed. Commander Corwyn, you are now in charge. Everyone is to take their orders from Commander Corwyn.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Captain. Shira! You don't have to do this, there's another way, there's got to be.

TYRON
(DISTORT) No.

TUVOLD
(DISTORT) Captain?

KYLO
(DISTORT) I don't understand.

SHIRA
Sorry, Doctor. This thing escapes, we're all dead, the mission's too important for that.

IGRIS
(ROARING, CLOSE)

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Shira! Shira, no!

SHIRA
Nice knowing you. (SHE FLICKS A SWITCH ON THE CHARGE) Empire be — [praised]

(SHE'S CUT OFF BY AN ENORMOUS EXPLOSION)

21: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE)

(THE ENTIRE SHIP SHAKES. ALARMS BLARE. IT JUDDERS AND ROCKS. EVERYONE'S THROWN ABOUT. IT PLUMMETS, OUT OF CONTROL)

DOCTOR
Shira! Shira!

TUVOLD
She's dead, Doctor! Blown a hole in the side of the ship, like she said!

RIGA
We're going down!

KYLO
Why would she do that? We're all going to die!

CORWYN
Can you stabilise our descent, pilot?

RIGA
I'm trying!

ALTUS
At least she's got rid of that creature, everything in armoury three's just vented into the air!

DOCTOR
(BEAT) But my TARDIS was in there!

RIGA
Don't know if I can get control back, Commander, number two engine's blown, we're nearing terminal velocity!

KYLO
Commander?

CORWYN
Can you get us down safe?

RIGA
This ship isn't designed for landing!

CORWYN
Then do what you can!

RIGA
Sure? Crashing might be a mercy!

DOCTOR
What?

RIGA
(LAUGHS BITTERLY) He has no idea what we're up against, does he?

DOCTOR
I don't so would someone please enlighten me?

CORWYN
Why'd you think we had one of those things on board?

DOCTOR
Research, wasn't it? Shira said.

CORWYN
On a rescue mission?

DOCTOR
Well… it's a trifle unusual, I'll admit…

ALTUS
We had one on board because we needed to find out if it had any weaknesses!

DOCTOR
I… I don't understand.

CORWYN
The planet we were heading for, Doctor, the one we're about to smash into? It's an Igris world.

DOCTOR
What?

CORWYN
They took it over a decade ago. Killed everyone.

DOCTOR
But… but one of those things just wiped out your entire crew!

CORWYN
I know. And if we even survive the crash… there's twenty thousand of them down there!

(CLOSING THEME)

PART TWO

OPENING THEME

22: INT. ALENDRA (BRIDGE) (CONTINUED)

CORWYN
The planet we were heading for, Doctor, the one we're about to smash into? It's an Igris world.

DOCTOR
What?

CORWYN
They took it over a decade ago. Killed everyone.

DOCTOR
But… but one of those things just took out your entire crew!

CORWYN
I know. And if we even survive the crash… there's twenty thousand of them down there!

DOCTOR
Right. (BEAT) Well, let's worry about them later, we've more important priorities. Riga. How long to impact?

RIGA
Four minutes.

DOCTOR
Is there no way of controlling our descent?

RIGA
Not that I can see!

TUVOLD
I did not sign on for this!

KYLO
We're going to die! We won't save her, we're all going to die!

(A COMPUTER BANK EXPLODES)

ALTUS
Keep back. The ship's breaking down!

DOCTOR
We can't reverse the artificial gravity, loop it out, use it as a cushion of sorts?

RIGA
We've picked up too much speed, without downward thrust the impact'd still be enough to kill us!

DOCTOR
Probably not a good idea then…

KYLO
I've lost her forever!

DOCTOR
It's not her you should be worrying about. (BEAT) Not designed for landing, you said. This ship's an orbiter!

CORWYN
Yes, what about it?

DOCTOR
Well, you were planning on getting to the surface. You must have some sort of dropship. We can use that!

CORWYN
A drop — ?

TYRON
The lander, sir!

TUVOLD
Yes!

ALTUS
It's travelling with the same momentum, it'll still crash.

DOCTOR
Maybe not. I presume its engines are intact. Use them for downward thrust, we might just lessen the impact.

(PAUSE)

CORWYN
Pilot?

RIGA
Worth a shot. Keep in the air long enough, when this ship hits, we might even be able to ride the impact wave!

ALTUS
But it's not designed for stellar travel, once we're down we won't be able to get offworld!

DOCTOR
Oh, you're a beacon of positivity, aren't you? Trust me, my TARDIS was sucked out into this planet's upper atmosphere. It's falling to the surface too but it's rather more resilient than this ship. We can use it to get away.

TUVOLD
TARDIS?

TYRON
Falling?

DOCTOR
There really isn't time!

KYLO
We can save her?

DOCTOR
If I'm right, we can save everyone.

CORWYN
Pilot, can you lock the navigation systems?

RIGA
(PRESSING BUTTONS) Already doing it, Commander. (BEAT) Done!

CORWYN
Everyone. I hereby give order to abandon ship! Got that? Abandon ship! Lift to the lower-hold. Now!

(THEY SCRAMBLE FROM THE ROOM. ALARMS CONTINUE)

23: INT. ALENDRA (LOWER-HOLD)

(LIFT DOORS OPEN. ALARMS BLARING. SHIP SHAKING, UNDER MASSIVE STRAIN. THE GROUP RUN FROM THE LIFT)

CORWYN
Here we are. Riga, get on board. Initiate take-off procedure!

RIGA
Sir!

(SHE RUNS INTO THE LANDER)

CORWYN
Tyron, get the bay doors open!

TYRON
On it.

(HE RUNS OFF, OPERATES CONTROLS)

CORWYN
Everyone else, on board, now, strap yourselves in! Move, move, move!

DOCTOR
Well, seeing as you asked so nicely.

TUVOLD
This is not what I signed on for…

KYLO
Quickly! We can't waste a second!

(THE OTHERS RUN ONTO THE SHIP. WHEN THEY'RE ON, WITH A HYDRAULIC HISS, THE BAY DOORS BEGIN TO OPEN. WINDS BATTER THE HOLD)

TYRON
Bay doors open, sir.

CORWYN
Then follow me, we're out of here!

(THEY CHARGE ONTO THE LANDER)

24: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

(ENGINES WHIRRING. THE SHIP SHAKING AS MUCH AS ITS PARENT. RIGA PRESSING BUTTONS, OPERATING CONTROLS. MACHINERY HUMMING INTO LIFE. THE DOCTOR RUNS UP)

RIGA
Come on, come on…

DOCTOR
Need a hand?

RIGA
That lever there, pull it down half-way.

(THE DOCTOR DOES)

Retracting launch ramp… Stern-doors closing…

(THE DOCTOR STRAPS HIMSELF IN BESIDE. CORWYN RUNS UP)

Rear hatch closed and locked, we're good to go!

CORWYN
Nearly there?

RIGA
(SHE TWISTS A DIAL) There! Brace yourselves in the back!

25: INT. LANDER (CREWROOM)

(TUVOLD, KYLO, ALTUS, TYRON STRAPPING THEMSELVES IN)

TUVOLD
How do you do these buckles?

TYRON
Let me. (HELPS WITH THE BUCKLES)

KYLO
Why are we wasting time? Why haven't we launched?

ALTUS
It's a complicated procedure, highness, give them time…

26: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

RIGA
All codes inputted. Launch in three… two… one…

DOCTOR
Here we go!

(THE LANDER DROPS OUT OF THE SHIP. MUCH BUFFETTING. IT'S HARD TO FLY, RIGA STRUGGLES WITH THE CONTROLS)

RIGA
And we're out! Get yourself strapped in, Commander!

(CORWYN STRUGGLES TO SIT)

CORWYN
I'm… trying…

DOCTOR
Number two burner on?

RIGA
When did you become co-pilot?

DOCTOR
About thirty seconds ago, is that a problem?

RIGA
(BEAT) No. Yes, number two burner, on!

(THE DOCTOR OPERATES SWITCHES)

DOCTOR
Have we enough thrust?

RIGA
Not sure.

(CORWYN IS STRAPPED)

CORWYN
I'm strapped in!

27: INT. LANDER (CREWROOM)

(SHIP BUFFETTING OUTRAGEOUSLY)

TUVOLD
So glad I didn't eat this morning… Is space-travel always like this?

TYRON
Always. COME ON!

ALTUS
Don't worry, it won't last long.

KYLO
Please let us survive this… please let us survive this…

28: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

DOCTOR
How long before the main ship hits?

RIGA
The Alendra? Fifteen seconds!

DOCTOR
The Alendra? Is that what it was called, I did wonder. Ride the impact wave when it hits, remember.

RIGA
I'll do my best. (PAUSE) Five. Four. Three.

DOCTOR
Alright everyone, hold on. Here we go!

RIGA
Two. One.

29: EXT. SHARNAX (DRY LAND)

(COMPARATIVELY QUIET, WITH THE SPACESHIP GLIDING THROUGH THE AIR. THEN IT HITS THE GROUND. ENORMOUS EXPLOSION)

30: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

(THE LANDER IS BUFFETTED EVEN MORE BY SHOCKWAVES. ALARMS BLARE. ENGINES WHINE INCREASINGLY. RIGA STRUGGLING WITH CONTROLS THROUGHOUT)

RIGA
Out of control! Going down!

CORWYN
What, we're going to crash too?

RIGA
Very possibly. This was a really well conceived plan.

DOCTOR
Can you keep her in the air?

RIGA
I'll see what I can do!

(STEAM VENTS BEHIND)

CORWYN
What the hell was that?

DOCTOR
Power bank one's gone!

RIGA
Losing altitude!

CORWYN
Do something, Riga!

RIGA
I'm trying!

CORWYN
Get back there, Doctor, see what's going on!

DOCTOR
On my way!

(HE UNSTRAPS AND HEADS BACK)

31: INT. LANDER (CREWROOM)

(STEAM VENTING)

TUVOLD
Can someone control that?!

TYRON
I'm trying!

KYLO
This is not good!

(AN EXPLOSION TO THE REAR — CAUSED BY KYLO'S POWERS, IN FACT)

ALTUS
What the —

TUVOLD
What in Empire's name was [that— ?]

DOCTOR
(ARRIVING) Keep it calm, this is hard enough as it is.

TUVOLD
The rear control bank… it just… it just caught on fire…

ALTUS
It — ?

DOCTOR
The systems must be under all manner of pressure. Bear with me. (CALLING BACK TO RIGA) Can you get her down safely?

32: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

RIGA
(CALLING BACK) I don't think so. It's a more controlled descent, yes, but it'll still be a fatal impact when we hit the ground!

DOCTOR
(CALLING FROM BEHIND) Are the stern engines working?

RIGA
(CALLING BACK) I'm giving it all we've got!

CORWYN
Come on, Riga!

33: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

TUVOLD
Marshland!

DOCTOR
What?

TUVOLD
This planet's largely marshland, that's what Shira said!

DOCTOR
Marshland?

TUVOLD
Surely that could cushion the landing?

ALTUS
It's a possibility.

KYLO
We could still survive?

(THE DOCTOR RUNS BACK FOR THE CONTROL ROOM)

34: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

(THE DOCTOR RUNS IN)

DOCTOR
Is that right, Commander? This planet's largely marshland? (BEAT) Well?

CORWYN
Er… yes, yes, I'm pretty certain I remember that from the briefing —

DOCTOR
Riga, if we dive this ship into a marsh, can we survive the impact?

RIGA
Ah…

DOCTOR
Quickly!

RIGA
… well, if it's deep enough, there's a chance. Beats solid ground, I suppose.

DOCTOR
Excellent. Make a scan of the local area, find the deepest, marshiest marsh you can find, head for that.

RIGA
Slight problem.

DOCTOR
Yes?

RIGA
This ship isn't buoyant. It's too heavy, it'll sink.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Ever get the feeling it's not your day? Look, one thing at a time, Riga. Do the scan, if we survive the crash we can worry about drowning later.

RIGA
Will do.

(RIGA OPERATES MACHINERY)

CORWYN
You think this'll work?

DOCTOR
By all means feel free to suggest an alternative.

(A COMPUTER BEEPS)

RIGA
Got one! Grid factor five!

DOCTOR
Full speed ahead!

RIGA
(OPERATES CONTROLS) On my way!

DOCTOR
Give it all the reverse thrust you can!

RIGA
Coming in now!

DOCTOR
(CALLING OUT) Everybody brace for impact!

35: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

TUVOLD
Not again.

TYRON
You'll be fine.

ALTUS
Ready?

KYLO
No.

TYRON
Here we go!

36: INT. LANDER (COCKPIT)

CORWYN
Good luck everyone!

RIGA
Impact in three… two… one…

DOCTOR
Hold on!

37: EXT. SHARNAX (MARSHLAND)

(THE LANDER PLUNGES DOWN THROUGH THE SKY AND INTO THE SWAMP. IT BOBS UP AND SETTLES)

38: INT. LANDER

(SLOW PAUSE. EVERYONE RECOVERS)

RIGA
And we're down.

CORWYN
Good work.

(A SPRAY OF LIQUID BURSTS FROM THE WALL BEHIND)

TYRON
(CALLING FROM THE BACK) We're leaking!

DOCTOR
Never rains but it… well, you know. I'll see what I can do…

(HE RACES BACK)

39: INT. LANDER (CREWROOM)

(WATER SPRAYING EVERYWHERE. THE DOCTOR RUNS IN)

TUVOLD
We're going to flood!

DOCTOR
Then we've got to get outside, obviously.

ALTUS
Those creatures are out there!

KYLO
I've told you before, Altus, they're not as bad as you think!

ALTUS
Your highness, one of those creatures, your friend, just wiped out thirty trained marines!

KYLO
HE WAS PROVOKED!

(A BANK OF COMPUTERS EXPLODES NEARBY – KYLO'S POWERS AGAIN)

TUVOLD
Not again!

DOCTOR
Some kind of electrical fault!

ALTUS
But why – Oh, no.

DOCTOR
The water must be getting into the computer banks.

ALTUS
Kylo, you –

KYLO
I –

DOCTOR
Save the arguments for later, there's no time!

(CORWYN AND RIGA RUN IN)

RIGA
I've checked the systems, we've no more than five minutes before we go under.

CORWYN
What's the plan?

DOCTOR
Well, the Igris will have been distracted by the crash. That'll draw their attention for a while, so going outside now shouldn't be a problem. We'll need protection for when they get back. You were planning on coming down here, what method of defence had you in mind?

(SILENCE)

Commander?

CORWYN
I…

TYRON
The skimmer, sir, the skimmer. We were going to travel in it, it's out back.

DOCTOR
The what?

ALTUS
A low level flying tank.

DOCTOR
A tank within a lander within an orbiter? Less a spaceship, more a Matryoshka doll…

RIGA
It's got it's own forcewall, that'll keep them back.

DOCTOR
Then I think we've found our way out of here. Good.

CORWYN
It's got limited defensive systems though. Small cache of weaponry, nothing more.

DOCTOR
Even better.

ALTUS
Better?

DOCTOR
We're the invaders on this planet, the aggressors. It's their world, we don't have the right to wipe them out…

CORWYN
But —

DOCTOR
It’s a point of principle, sorry.

(BEAT. A STAND-OFF)

CORWYN
Ah, they’re practically impossible to kill anyway. Arrowbolts only push them back…

DOCTOR
Good man.

CORWYN
All right, everyone! Not a moment to lose. The skimmer! Quick as you can! Go!

TYRON
Sir!

RIGA
Sir!

KYLO
Yes!

TUVOLD
I’m too old for this…

(THEY ALL RUN FOR THE BACK)

40: INT. LANDER BAY

(THE GROUP RUN IN. RIGA TYPES INTO KEYBOARD ON BACK OF SKIMMER)

RIGA
And unlocking.

DOCTOR
Anyone else getting a sense of déjà vu?

(THE DOOR OPENS)

RIGA
We're in. I can open the launch door automatically from inside.

CORWYN
Do it. (RIGA RUNS IN) Move everyone, in, in, come on! Tyron, on!

TYRON
Sir!

(CORWYN AND TYRON RUN ON AS ANOTHER SPRAY OF WATER BURSTS INTO THE ROOM)

ALTUS
Calm, your highness, stay... calm…

KYLO
Yes, Altus, I'm calm, I'm calm.

(ALTUS AND KYLO BOARD. TUVOLD FLAGGING, TIRED)

DOCTOR
You alright, Tuvold?

TUVOLD
Yes, I'm just… not used to strenuous physical activity. I'm an Ambassador, it's not exactly in the job description.

DOCTOR
(HELPING HIM) Let me.

TUVOLD
I just wish there wasn't so much running.

DOCTOR
Welcome to my world.

(THEY CLAMBER ON BOARD. THE DOOR SHUTS. FURTHER LEAKS SPRING)

41: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(RIGA OPERATING CONTROLS. CORWYN CLOSE)

CORWYN
Prepare to take off!

RIGA
Readying launch doors.

(THE DOCTOR RUNS UP)

DOCTOR
Everyone's aboard. Remember we're half under-water, when those doors open the lander's going to flood more quickly. You won't have much time.

RIGA
Won't need it. Opening doors.

(SHE OPERATES CONTROLS)

42: INT. LANDER BAY

(THE LAUNCH DOORS HISS OPEN. TORRENTS OF WATER FLOOD IN)

43: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(THE FLOOD CAN BE HEARD, MUTED)

RIGA
Activate anti-grav…

(SHE PRESSES BUTTONS. NOTHING HAPPENS)

DOCTOR
Nothing seems to have happened.

RIGA
It's got to!

(SHE PRESSES THEM AGAIN. NOTHING)

We've a power outage…

DOCTOR
This isn't looking ideal.

CORWYN
How long til the lander sinks?

DOCTOR
Thirty seconds?

(RIGA PRESSES BUTTON AFTER BUTTON)

RIGA
Oh, please, please…

KYLO
(RUNNING UP) What's going on?

ALTUS
(RUNNING UP) Calm, your highness…

KYLO
I am calm!

ALTUS
Kylo!

DOCTOR
Nothing, nothing, some unexpected turbulence, sit back, strap yourselves in, enjoy the in-flight movie…

CORWYN
I'm not hearing engines, Pilot!

RIGA
This can't be it, this cannot be it…

DOCTOR
We're going under!

44: EXT. SHARNAX. MARSHLAND

(THE LANDER SINKS BENEATH THE MARSH WITH A BUBBLING PLOP.

PAUSE. DISTANT FIRES OF THE SHIP'S EXPLOSION. DISTANT IGRIS NOISES.

THEN THE LANDER ERUPTS OUT FROM UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE WATER AND LANDS ON ITS SURFACE)

45: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(RIGA PRESSING BUTTONS)

RIGA
There. We're now floating on the surface of the marsh.

CORWYN
That was too close.

DOCTOR
Good work, Pilot.

(PAUSE. EVERYONE GETS THEIR BREATH BACK. BEAT. RIGA UNBUCKLES)

Anyway, I'm the Doctor, don't think I introduced myself properly to everyone…

(RIGA STANDS AND PUNCHES HIM IN THE FACE. MUCH CONSTERNATION)

Ow! What was that for?

RIGA
Gadarel scum!

TUVOLD
Now look here — !

RIGA
You killed my ship!

DOCTOR
I —

CORWYN
Riga!

RIGA
You killed my captain, you killed my ship!

(SHE PUNCHES HIM AGAIN)

DOCTOR
Ow! Can you stop doing that?

KYLO
Commander?

CORWYN
Pilot, you will cease hitting that man right now, that is an order!

DOCTOR
What are you talking about, I helped you, you saw me help you!

KYLO
What's going on?

TUVOLD
Stop it!

RIGA
Commander — !

CORWYN
An order, I say, Riga, an order!

RIGA
(BEAT AS SHE CONTROLS HERSELF) Sir! (BEAT) But you know what he did!

DOCTOR
If he does, can he tell me, because I thought I just saved your lives.

RIGA
There was a saboteur on the Alendra. Somebody let the Igris out, then shorted the energy fields, so no forcewall, now this.

KYLO
This?

RIGA
The lines were cut. I had to reroute the power, otherwise we'd have drowned. You're the stowaway, who else is it going to be, you're a saboteur!

(SHE STARTS HITTING THE DOCTOR AGAIN)

CORWYN
Riga, no!

DOCTOR
Will you —

CORWYN
Tyron, get her off him!

TYRON
Riga! Come on!

(HE GRABS RIGA, SHE STRUGGLES)

RIGA
No, Tyron, what are you — let me — !

TUVOLD
Riga, please, listen to me, you're wrong, it can't have been him, he was your prisoner, Tyron, remember!

TYRON
Er… yeah, he's right, I'd got him in the brig, it can't have been him!

RIGA
But —

TYRON
It weren't him!

(BEAT. RIGA STOPS STRUGGLING)

RIGA
It - ?

TUVOLD
It can't have been.

(BEAT)

RIGA
Then it was you!

TUVOLD
What!

RIGA
Has to be a Gadarel, who else is it going to be?

CORWYN
Calm down, Pilot, I — !

(HE STOPS. SUDDEN SILENCE. OUTSIDE THERE'S THE LOW GROWL OF DOZENS OF APPROACHING IGRIS)

What's that?

DOCTOR
You know, I think we're forgetting something.

(BEAT. THEY ALL REGISTER THE SOUND)

KYLO
The Igris!

TUVOLD
Is the forcewall up?

RIGA
(LEAPING BACK TO HER SEAT AND OPERATING CONTROLS) Doing it now, sir!

TYRON
Going up top!

(HE RUNS TO A LADDER, CLIMBS UP)

DOCTOR
I’m right with you!

(TYRON FLINGS OPEN A HATCH. THE DOCTOR RUNS UP BEHIND AND STARTS TO CLIMB)

46: EXT. SHARNAX (MARSHLAND)

(TYRON CLAMBERS ONTO THE TOP OF THE SKIMMER. THE IGRIS ADVANCE IS LOUDER NOW. HE UNSHOULDERS HIS BOW AND STARTS TO LOAD AS THE DOCTOR COMES THROUGH THE HATCH)

DOCTOR
Dozens of them…

(TYRON LOOSES OFF SEVERAL BOLTS)

TYRON
I know. (CALLING OUT) Get back, you vermin – !

DOCTOR
Can you hold them off?

TYRON
Do my best.

DOCTOR
(CALLING DOWN THE HATCH) Quickly, Riga!

47: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(RIGA PRESSING BUTTONS. A FORCE WALL BLARES OUT WITH A PULSE)

RIGA
(CALLING OUT) It's on!

(THE DOCTOR CLAMBERS DOWN THE STAIRS.)

DOCTOR
Excellent.

ALTUS
Yes.

CORWYN
(CALLING OUT) Ride the hatch, Tyron! Keep watch, I want to know what these things are doing at all times!

TYRON
(OUTSIDE) Sir!

CORWYN
Well done, Pilot.

RIGA
Sir. Don't know how long the field'll last. With the rerouting it's not as stable as I'd like, won't hold forever…

DOCTOR
It'll hold for now, that's good enough.

KYLO
We're safe?

DOCTOR
I wouldn't say that exactly. But it'll do.

ALTUS
Good.

TUVOLD
Thank you.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Riga. These are dangerous circumstances we find ourselves in. I need you on side if we're going to get through this.

RIGA
(BEAT) Okay. I'm sorry. I mean, I'm still not sure I trust you but —

DOCTOR
That's alright. An understandable misinterpretation of the facts, given the circumstances. But it can't have been me. Tuvold, Tyron and I can vouch for each other.

TUVOLD
Exactly. I was there all the time.

CORWYN
You're saying it was accidental?

DOCTOR
Oh, no, no. It was deliberate. Someone was trying to stop your mission.

KYLO
There was a saboteur?

DOCTOR
I'd say so.

KYLO
Someone wants me and my betrothed dead?

ALTUS
(WARNING) Your highness…

DOCTOR
Only indirectly. I'd guess they were more concerned about stopping the peace initiative. Your deaths'd just be a good stepping stone towards achieving that.

KYLO
One of you is trying to kill me?

DOCTOR
Not necessarily. Whoever it is, they may have perished on the Alendra, it's not like the Igris was easily directable…

KYLO
This is —

ALTUS
Your highness, you need to keep calm…

CORWYN
Doctor, that's impossible. The crew all supported the peace initiative. We checked. Detailed psychological scans —

DOCTOR
-that can be faked.

CORWYN
Not these. We couldn't risk taking pro-war agitators on such a delicate mission, we're not stupid.

DOCTOR
Then who —

CORWYN
They were cleared. We were all cleared.

TUVOLD
It was an obligatory requirement before we allowed the mission.

ALTUS
I supervised the tests.

(BEAT)

DOCTOR
So no-one could have done it? That's impossible, unless… unless they're after something else…

CORWYN
Enough!

KYLO
But Commander — !

CORWYN
This is pointless speculation. Maybe there was a saboteur, maybe it was a lot of accidents, I don't know. All I know is I've a mission to complete and I don't intend to delay it further by discussing hypotheticals.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry, Corwyn, but —

CORWYN
We have a Princess to rescue and we are wasting time.

KYLO
(BEAT) Yes. You're right.

CORWYN
That is our priority, nothing else. We find that downed ship now, that is an order, understood?

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Sir.

CORWYN

Riga, get looking for the signal.

RIGA
Commander. (SHE OPERATES CONTROLS)

CORWYN
Everyone else, out back. We'll inform you of developments. (BEAT) What are you waiting for, MOVE!

(THE OTHERS SHUFFLE AWAY)

ALTUS
Very well.

DOCTOR
Such a charmer, isn't he?

TUVOLD
I've never warmed to the military.

KYLO
We're going to find her. I know we're going to find her.

(THEY'RE OUT)

48: EXT. SHARNAX (SWAMP)

(THE SKIMMER SHUDDERS ALONG, SLOWLY. IGRIS WANDER AROUND, GROWLING)

49: INT. SKIMMER (REAR)

(TUVOLD AND THE DOCTOR CLOSE, ALTUS AND KYLO IN THE BACKGROUND)

TUVOLD
Are they still there?

DOCTOR
(STANDING) Well, it's not as good a view as up top, so it's got to be an estimate, but… I'd say there's in the region of four hundred Igris outside.

TUVOLD
Wonderful.

DOCTOR
(CLOSING A WINDOWSLIT) Could be worse, could be in the thousands. Mind you. Didn't see the other side…

TUVOLD
I wasn't supposed to be down here, you know. No planetfall, that was the agreement. A purely diplomatic role. I've a daughter, newly born, I should be at home, shouldn't be dealing with those things.

DOCTOR
What exactly are they?

TUVOLD
The Igris? You don't know?

DOCTOR
Lost wanderer, remember?

TUVOLD
(BEAT) They're a genetically modified slave race. They were designed for mining and building and cheap labour on planets with difficult terrain or environments.

DOCTOR
Ah, hence their impregnability. Sharp claws to cut away rock. Skin like iron to protect from heat and cold…

TUVOLD
Sharnax used to be a major mining post, until the workers aggravated the Igris. They've killed everyone who's landed here since.

DOCTOR
You created a super soldier and thought it wouldn't rebel.

TUVOLD
Well, it's not all of them. It's only isolated communities.

DOCTOR
They're still in use?

TUVOLD
We've learnt not to anger them. The one on the Alendra was a special case. Altus was… experimenting on it to find its weakness.

DOCTOR
By which you mean torturing?

TUVOLD
I'm not trying to justify it.

(BEAT)

DOCTOR
So why are you on this mission?

TUVOLD
Me?

DOCTOR
If you weren't supposed to land. You were the only Gadarel on board. Ambassador, nothing less.

TUVOLD
Ambassador, yes, that's a joke. It's a new position. I'm the first. (BEAT) Sharnax's deep in Sorsha territory, they wouldn't allow us to lead our own rescue party. Whole thing could have been a subterfuge to get a warship in. Aldron Sorsha—

DOCTOR
The King?

TUVOLD
Their King, yes, he insisted on having his people lead the mission. We insisted on having a representative on board. Me. Not exactly my thing. I've always rather shied away from noble causes.

DOCTOR
You could have refused.

TUVOLD
Hardly. I'm Aliona's uncle.

DOCTOR
Ah.

TUVOLD
Valdarn Gadarel was my brother. His widow didn't feel she could trust anyone else. Refusal would have been seen as an act of treason.

DOCTOR
Not traditionally a well-regarded crime. So neither of us are here by choice. And neither of us are entirely trusted, it would appear.

TUVOLD
Not now Shira's dead. She trusted me, she was a good woman. All the good people die. I'm so tired of war.

50: INT. SKIMMER (REAR, NEARBY)

KYLO
Stop looking at me like that, Altus.

ALTUS
I saw what happened, your Highness.

KYLO
What happened? What do you mean, what happened?

ALTUS
On the lander. I saw.

(BEAT)

KYLO
I don't know what you're talking about.

ALTUS
I saw. You've not been taking your medication, have you?

KYLO
My… medication…?

ALTUS
You said you have, but you haven't.

KYLO
(BEAT) You can't know that for a fact…

ALTUS
(RAISING HIS VOICE) I saw what happened, your highness, I saw! (BEAT. REALISES HE'S BEEN TOO LOUD) I saw it burn.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
With Aliona missing I've been under a lot of stress.

ALTUS
That's precisely when you need to take it!

KYLO
I know! I know, and I'm sorry.

ALTUS
You can't run the risk, you know what happened to your great-grandfather.

KYLO
Emperor Luko?

ALTUS
Yes, you don't want that to happen to you, do you?

KYLO
No. No, I don't want that.

ALTUS
At least we've nipped it in the bud. No harm done. You can start again now. (SILENCE) You can start again now? (BEAT) Can't you?

KYLO
(BEAT) I may have left my medication on the ship.

ALTUS
The Alendra?

KYLO
I suspect it might not exist any more.

ALTUS
You — In Empire's name!

KYLO
I didn't do it deliberately!

ALTUS
But —

(CORWYN ARRIVES)

CORWYN
Your highness, we've located the wedding galley, we'll be there in five minutes, I thought you'd want to be informed.

KYLO
Ah — excellent. Thank you, Corwyn. Thank you. I — If you'll excuse me. (KYLO LEAVES)

CORWYN
Was this a bad time? I thought he'd be happier.

ALTUS
(BEAT) No, no, it's nothing… important…

CORWYN
Good. Only… I'd hate it if the heir to the throne —

ALTUS
(AWKWARD, CHANGING THE SUBJECT) Er, look, um… Commander. Can I ask you a question.

CORWYN
(BEAT) Certainly, go ahead.

ALTUS
The Doctor's talk about… sabotage…

CORWYN
I thought we'd agreed not to discuss that…

ALTUS
Riga. We were never sure about Riga. She was a risk.

CORWYN
She's the finest pilot in the fleet.

ALTUS
And was a member of anti-Gadarel groups at the academy.

CORWYN
We all did things we weren't proud of at the academy.

ALTUS
You saw how she reacted to the Doctor. And Tuvold.

CORWYN
Everyone's a risk, Altus. You're a risk. I'm a risk. My wife was caught in a Gadarel bombing raid, remember? Barely came out alive, did you forget that?

ALTUS
No, I —

CORWYN
I still want peace. I don't want anyone else to suffer like her, like me. You can't decide these things by numbers, Altus. Maybe Riga's changed, changed her mind. People do that.

ALTUS
What if she hasn't?

CORWYN
We're not discussing this further. Prepare yourself. We're nearly there. (OUT) Everyone. We reach the target in four minutes. Four minutes. Be ready. (TO ALTUS) Remember what I said, Altus.

(HE MARCHES OUT)

51: INT. SKIMMER (REAR)

(THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD TALKING AS KYLO APPROACHES)

TUVOLD
You think you can get us off this planet?

DOCTOR
If I can find my ship I'm certain of it. Need to do a scan for temporal energies, there shouldn't be any other sources down here…

KYLO
(MUTTERING TO HIMSELF) Medication. Always with the medication… (BUMPS INTO THE DOCTOR) Oops, sorry.

DOCTOR
No, no, that's quite alright. Kylo, isn't it? Didn't really speak properly back on the ship. I'm the Doctor.

KYLO
Oh, yes, you said. Hello.

(THEY SHAKE HANDS)

DOCTOR
Is something the matter?

KYLO
What? Oh, no. No, I'm just… distracted. It's difficult to concentrate. You know, while Aliona's out there. Lost.

DOCTOR
I see.

KYLO
Until I have her safe… I can't relax.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) You really are in love with her, aren't you?

KYLO
Of course. D'you think I'd come all this way if I wasn't?

DOCTOR
Oh, not at all, it's just these things are usually a marriage of convenience, no genuine affection on either side.

KYLO
She's wonderful. The most beautiful girl I've ever seen. Never met anyone like her in my life.

TUVOLD
She is a wonder to behold.

KYLO
No idea what she sees in me. Runt of the litter. The fall-back heir.

DOCTOR
Maybe she looks beyond those things.

KYLO
You know… I'd forgotten… if it wasn't for the crash… today would have been our wedding day. I'd have been holding her in my arms right now.

DOCTOR
I hope you get her back.

KYLO
I'd better.

RIGA
(CALLING OUT FROM THE FRONT) Coming up on it now!

52: EXT. SHARNAX (DRY AREA)

(THE SKIMMER SHUDDERS TO A HALT. IGRIS PACE AROUND THE BACKGROUND)

53: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

DOCTOR
That's the Galley?

TUVOLD
Doesn't look in the best shape, does it?

CORWYN
We can't make any assumptions.

ALTUS
We can't scan for lifeforms from outside. The Igris are in the way, they'll interfere with the reading.

RIGA
All life rafts still attached. No-one got out that way.

DOCTOR
There can't be any survivors, surely?

KYLO
She's alive in there. She has to be.

CORWYN
Everybody suit up, we're going on board.

TUVOLD
What? Everyone?

CORWYN
Got a problem with that?

KYLO
No. No, I have to find her. I have to be there.

TUVOLD
We're not all of us trained for military activity, Commander.

CORWYN
I don't want to spend any more time on this benighted rock than I have to. We need to search that thing, thoroughly. The more of us go in, the quicker we get out. Got that? We're all there.

DOCTOR
Does it have any intact airlocks?

RIGA
(CHECKS A READOUT) Just the one I can see.

DOCTOR
Then it shouldn't be a problem. We can get across without disturbing the Igris, and I can draw on some of its residual energy to extend our forcefield out around both ships. It won't last forever but it'll keep long enough for us to conduct a search.

CORWYN
Is that possible? Altus?

ALTUS
I can't see any reason why not.

(PAUSE)

CORWYN
Then that's what we're going to do. Riga. Prepare to dock.

54: EXT. SHARNAX (DRY AREA)

(THE SKIMMER MOVES FORWARD. SOUNDS OF TWO SHIPS LOCKING TOGETHER)

55: INT. DOWNED SHIP (CORRIDOR)

(AN AIRLOCK DOOR HISSES OPEN. THE SURVIVORS CLAMBER ABOARD AND ADVANCE)

CORWYN
Follow me, single file. Bows drawn, just in case.

TUVOLD
I really don't know how to work this thing…

TYRON
Just keep away from the pointy end, you'll be fine.

ALTUS
No desire for a bow, Doctor?

DOCTOR
I prefer reasoning and diplomacy.

CORWYN
Really? Well, when your words aren't stopping an insane Igris tearing you apart, we'll see what you think of weapons then. This way.

(THE PARTY MOVE OFF)

DOCTOR
Ship's prettier than I expected…

TUVOLD
Well, it is a wedding galley. She dressed in the crown jewels for the occasion too. The Ashfarn Cloak. The Royal Carcanet. Priceless.

DOCTOR
So romance isn't dead. Let's hope the Princess isn't either.

(DOOR HISSES OPEN, INTO…)

56: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (MAIN ROOM) [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR
(AT DOOR) Oh no.

(THE PARTY RUSH FORWARD)

KYLO
Aliona!

RIGA
That's not a good sign.

CORWYN
Check the bodies. Find out who they are.

(THE GROUP MOVE IN, START TO CHECK THE BODIES)

KYLO
Aliona, is she here?

DOCTOR
Must be a couple of dozen corpses. How many people were there onboard this ship?

TUVOLD
A couple of dozen.

KYLO
Can anyone see Aliona?

CORWYN
Riga, scan for life signs.

RIGA
Commander.

KYLO
I said, can anyone see Aliona?!

ALTUS
Your highness, keep calm.

KYLO
Don't tell me to keep calm, Altus, the woman I love may be dead on the floor, *DON'T TELL ME TO KEEP CALM!*

(AN EXPLOSION OF FIRE FROM A COMPUTER BANK)

CORWYN
What the — ?

RIGA
I'm only seeing us.

TUVOLD
Doctor, what was that? An electrical fault?

DOCTOR
You know, I'm beginning to get a worrying feeling…

RIGA
There's no Drashani life signs anywhere aboard this ship other than us.

KYLO
What?

ALTUS
Your highness –

KYLO
None, you're saying none?

CORWYN
No.

ALTUS
Kylo, please –

KYLO
None at all?

RIGA
Nothing.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
She's dead.

DOCTOR
Your highness, I am truly sorry –

KYLO
I don't need sorrow, I need my wife! MY DEAD WIFE!

(ANOTHER EXPLOSION OF FIRE NEARBY. SPARKS FROM KYLO'S HANDS)

TUVOLD
What on –

CORWYN
Another computer – ?

RIGA
Forget the computer! Look at his hands!

ALTUS
This is not a problem.

TUVOLD
It's like they're on fire!

DOCTOR
Sparking, yes, I see what's happening here…

KYLO
She's dead! She's dead and gone!

(THE SPARKS INCREASE, MORE EXPLOSIONS)

ALTUS
Please, your highness, remember you haven't taken —

DOCTOR
Keep away from him.

TUVOLD
What, why?

DOCTOR
Just keep away.

ALTUS
Listen to me, this is fine!

DOCTOR
There's fire in his eyes, Altus, does that look fine? Keep back!

ALTUS
Stay — calm!

KYLO
Calm? CALM!

(ANOTHER EXPLOSION OF FIRE)

RIGA
He's glowing!

DOCTOR
Altus, please, this is not a good idea …

CORWYN
What's happening?

RIGA
Doctor?

ALTUS
Please, your highness, you can stop this now! You don't have to —

KYLO
(YELLING LIKE A MADMAN) Don't have to what? Can you bring her to me, Altus? Can you bring me Aliona!

ALTUS
(BEAT) I can't, no, you know that I can't.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
Then what! Use! Are you! YAAARGH!

(WITH A CRY HE FLINGS HIS ARMS OUT. ALTUS BURSTS INTO FLAMES)

ALTUS
Gaaargh!

CORWYN
Oh my —

TUVOLD
What in Empire's —?

KYLO
Burn! Burn, all of you!

(FIRES BURST OUT EVERYWHERE)

CORWYN
Everybody out! Now!

(THEY RUN FROM THE ROOM. KYLO SCREECHING, FIRES BURSTING OUT ALL AROUND)

KYLO
Bring me my wife! Bring me my wife!

(EXPLOSIONS ALL AROUND HIM)

57: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (CORRIDOR)

(THE SURVIVORS RUNNING DOWN THE CORRIDOR. FIRES BURNING BEHIND THEM)

DOCTOR
A pyro-kinetic, I should have realised! The explosions during our descent…

TUVOLD
A what?

DOCTOR
Pyro-kinetic. He can start fires with his thoughts…

CORWYN
Really?

DOCTOR
Altus just burst into flames, Commander, I think it's a fairly safe guess! We're next if we don't get out of his way…

TYRON
But where do we go? He's between us and the skimmer.

DOCTOR
The design of this place is fairly circular. There'll be another route round. This door here, I think…

(HE STARTS TO OPERATE CONTROLS)

RIGA
And Kylo?

DOCTOR
I think it's triggered by stress, that's what happened back on the lander. Give him time to calm down and —

(THE DOOR OPENS. BEHIND THE TELL-TALE GROWL OF A MASS OF APPROACHING IGRIS)

-we might be alright. Ah. Out of the frying pan —

TUVOLD
Igris!

TYRON
Get back!

(HE UNSHOULDERS HIS BOW. STARTS TO FIRE OFF ARROWS)

RIGA
Bowing up!

(SHE UNSHOULDERS HER BOW AND STARTS TO LOOSE OFF SHOTS. CORWYN DOES TOO)

CORWYN
Keep back! Keep back! (CALLING BACK) I thought these things couldn't get in!

DOCTOR
There must have been some inside when I extended the field!

TUVOLD
We're trapped!

TYRON
There's too many, we can't – Aargh!

(ONE OF THE IGRIS SLASHES AT TYRON, CATCHES HIM A GLANCING BOW. HE FALLS, MOANING IN PAIN. CORWYN AND RIGA CONTINUE TO FIRE)

DOCTOR
Murderous aliens ahead of us – grief stricken maniacal arsonist behind.

CORWYN
DOCTOR!

DOCTOR
You know – I think we might be in trouble.

(THE IGRIS ADVANCE)

(CLOSING THEME)

PART THREE

OPENING THEME

58: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (CORRIDOR) CONTINUED

DOCTOR
Murderous aliens ahead of us – grief stricken maniacal arsonist behind.

CORWYN
DOCTOR!

DOCTOR
You know – I think we might be in trouble.

(*THE IGRIS ADVANCE.*

SUDDEN WHOMPING SOUND AS A PULSE WHIPS DOWN THE CORRIDOR. THE IGRIS CRY IN PAIN. RIGA AND CORWYN STOP FIRING)

TUVOLD
Doctor, what's happening?

DOCTOR
I don't –

(THE SOUND AGAIN. THE IGRIS WAIL, COLLAPSE AND DIE. TYRON CONTINUES MOANING. IN THE BACKGROUND FIRES STILL ERUPT)

CORWYN
They're dying!

RIGA
But how?

(A SPEAKER CRACKLES)

DOCTOR
I don't (know) – Listen! Someone's accessing the speakers!

ALIONA
(OVER SPEAKER) Attention wedding galley. Attention. This is Princess Aliona of the Gadarel.

TUVOLD
Aliona?

RIGA
The princess?

CORWYN
She's alive!

RIGA
What?

DOCTOR
Well, this changes everything.

ALIONA
(OVER SPEAKER) The Igris outside are dead. Hopefully any in there too. But there'll be more.

CORWYN
How can she be alive? Everyone's dead!

TUVOLD
I've no idea.

ALIONA
(OVER SPEAKER) I'm trying to board but I can't get past the forcewall. Can you let me in please?

RIGA
Doctor?

ALIONA
I repeat, can you let me in please?

(BEAT)

DOCTOR
Riga, head for the skimmer. Drop the forcefield and let her on board. Get it straight back up when she's in.

RIGA
Got it!

(SHE RUNS OFF)

DOCTOR
(CALLING OUT) Then bring her down here.

TUVOLD
She's alive? My niece is alive?

CORWYN
(THOUGHTFUL) Yes…

TUVOLD
We've done it! The mission's a success!

DOCTOR
There's no time for celebrations now, we need Kylo stabilised.

(THERE'S A BIG EXPLOSION BEHIND)

As soon as possible.

CORWYN
You think she'll stop him?

DOCTOR
Hopefully. He's a danger to us all while he's like this.

(BIG MOAN FROM TYRON)

Still here, Tyron?

TYRON
Just about…

DOCTOR
You were lucky. Must have been a glancing blow…

TYRON
Don't feel lucky.

DOCTOR
You're losing a lot of blood. Tuvold, Corwyn, have either of you medical experience? Someone needs to look after him.

CORWYN
Um, some field training –

DOCTOR
Good, see what you can do. Tuvold, help him.

(HE RUNS OFF)

I'm going to try to reason with Kylo.

59: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (MAIN ROOM)

(KYLO THROWING FLAMES EVERYWHERE)

KYLO
Bring her back! Bring her back to me!

(THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, HANGS BACK)

DOCTOR
Kylo! Kylo, it's the Doctor!

KYLO
Keep back! Keep back if you want to live!

(HE BLASTS OFF ANOTHER FLAME)

DOCTOR
Kylo, please, you don't have to do this, we've found her, we've found Aliona, she's alive.

KYLO
She's not alive, Doctor! Can't you see? She's dead, they're all dead, look around you!

(ANOTHER BURST OF FLAME)

DOCTOR
I'm not making it up, Kylo, I wouldn't lie to you.

KYLO
Everyone died in the crash!

DOCTOR
They didn't, please, give me a chance! She's out there, she's alive!

(BEAT. KYLO ALMOST CALMS, STILL BREATHES HEAVILY)

KYLO
She's —

DOCTOR
Alive, yes.

KYLO
(BEAT) How?

DOCTOR
I don't know, you'll have to ask her.

KYLO
(ANGRY) Are you lying to me?

DOCTOR
I wouldn't do that, your highness, I know how much she meant to you. Please.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
Bring her here.

DOCTOR
She's on her way.

KYLO
Bring her here now!

60: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (CORRIDOR)

(CORWYN AND TUVOLD ATTENDING TYRON)

CORWYN
And hold that down…

(RIGA AND ALIONA RUN UP)

ALIONA
(CALLING AS SHE RUNS UP) Uncle Tuvold!

TUVOLD
Aliona!

(THEY EMBRACE)

RIGA
I give you Princess Aliona of the Gadarel.

CORWYN
Is the forcewall back up?

RIGA
Barely. The power was low before we extended it, it can't last long at this range.

(ALIONA AND TUVOLD BREAK APART)

ALIONA
You came for me! I never thought I'd see a Gadarel again. But you came! You came for me!

TUVOLD
Not just me. Kylo too. Your husband to be is here as well.

ALIONA
Kylo? Kylo's here?

TUVOLD
Yes.

ALIONA
(BEAT) Where?

61: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (MAIN ROOM)

KYLO
I'm waiting, Doctor!

DOCTOR
You're not the only one…

KYLO
If she is alive, where is she?

DOCTOR
She's on her way, I simply don't know how long it'll take for — Ah!

(CORWYN, ALIONA AND TUVOLD RUN UP)

CORWYN
Doctor!

DOCTOR
Corwyn, Tuvold, you've —

KYLO
Aliona!

ALIONA
Kylo!

(SHE RUNS IN. THEY EMBRACE)

DOCTOR
I'm going to take a stab in the dark and assume that's our missing Princess.

TUVOLD
Safe and well.

DOCTOR
She certainly looks the part. Such fine clothing and jewellery and… is that a gun?

TUVOLD
It's not part of the traditional marriage vestments.

DOCTOR
I'd hope not. Probably what she used on the Igris…

CORWYN
Riga's taken Tyron back to the ship, she'll try and patch him up on board.

DOCTOR
Excellent.

(THE COUPLE BREAK APART)

KYLO
I thought you were… I thought you'd…

ALIONA
Hush now.

KYLO
I thought you were dead.

ALIONA
Do I look dead?

KYLO
(BEAT) You look amazing.

ALIONA
(BEAT) I love you.

KYLO
I love you too.

(THEY KISS)

DOCTOR
Yes, I think we should perhaps give them a moment…

TUVOLD
Oh, er, quite.

CORWYN
If we must…

(THEY MOVE OFF. THE COUPLE BREAK)

ALIONA
I thought I'd never see you again.

KYLO
I thought I'd lost you. Your ship. What happened?

ALIONA
We were infiltrated by anti-Gadarel fanatics. Saboteurs.

KYLO
Us too! How did you — ?

ALIONA
Survive? My crew. They sacrificed themselves. Reversed the shields to create a protective bubble within the ship. It was only big enough for me.

KYLO
(BEAT) Then we won't forget them. They shall be the first honoured under our new — (HE STOPS HIMSELF) Altus!

(HE RUNS ACROSS THE ROOM TO THE BODY)

Altus. I killed Altus.

DOCTOR
Yes.

ALIONA
You — ?

KYLO
(BEAT) I burnt him. Burnt him alive.

ALIONA
Burnt him?

KYLO
It was an accident! I didn't mean to!

DOCTOR
We'll deal with it later. Presently I'm rather more concerned with the people who are still alive. The Igris won't be gone forever.

CORWYN
But the forcewall…

DOCTOR
Is a temporary solution at best. Keep it extended too long and we won't be able to sustain it all.

TUVOLD
What about your weapon, Aliona? That's what disposed of the Igris just now?

ALIONA
It uses vast amounts of power, it takes time to recharge.

DOCTOR
Time, I think it is safe to assume, we don't have. We need to get back to the Skimmer and out of here fast.

ALIONA
There's an abandoned mining base close by, that's where I've been hiding. It's got its own forcewall, and a shuttle. Sorsha technology, I couldn't figure out the controls, but you will. We can use that to get off world.

CORWYN
Excellent, then that's where we're going. Back to the skimmer! MOVE!

DOCTOR
But we don't need to go to there, there's my capsule –

CORWYN
Now!

KYLO
Come, my sweet…

(THEY RUN FROM THE ROOM. AS THEY GO)

TUVOLD
It never stops, does it?

DOCTOR
Very rarely.

62: INT. WEDDING GALLEY (CORRIDOR)

(THE GROUP RUNNING)

CORWYN
Come on people, move it, move it! We've not got all day!

(AS THEY RUN:)

DOCTOR
Your highness, that weapon of yours, the one you used on the Igris, can I take a look?

ALIONA
Certainly.

(SHE THROWS IT OVER)

DOCTOR
Hmm. A gene based firing system.

KYLO
You recognize the technology?

DOCTOR
No, I'm just very observant.

ALIONA
Our scientists developed it a few months back. It locks onto broad strands of DNA and destroys anything bearing that genetic code.

DOCTOR
Very clever. A pulse weapon. You carpet an entire area and only affect those you've chosen to affect, sparing everyone else. That's how you killed the Igris.

ALIONA
I saw your ship crash. I knew where you'd be heading, I thought it might be necessary to mount a rescue.

DOCTOR
And believe me, I'm very glad you did. Though I'm not exactly pleased about the means you used to do it…

ALIONA
I'm sorry?

DOCTOR
It's a shame it required such mass slaughter. I'm sure this weapon could easily be adjusted to stun rather than kill.

ALIONA
I don’t understand.

KYLO
The Doctor’s something of a pacifist, Aliona. He doesn’t approve of bloodshed.

ALIONA
Then he hasn’t lived his whole life in wartime, has he? Some things are evil, Doctor, they deserve to die.

(HE THROWS BACK THE WEAPON)

DOCTOR
We’ll have to agree to disagree.

CORWYN
Enough talk back there!

DOCTOR
Yes, yes, we’re going as quick as we can!

CORWYN
Get on with it!

63: INT. SKIMMER (AIRLOCK)

(THE GROUP THUNDER ON BOARD)

CORWYN
Right, everyone on board? Seal the airlock, I'm heading for the control deck.

TUVOLD
(ENTERING) Yes, yes…

(CORWYN CHARGES OFF. THE DOCTOR OPERATES THE CONTROLS)

DOCTOR
And door… sealed.

(HE RUNS AFTER CORWYN)

64: EXT. SHARNAX (DRY AREA)

(THE SKIMMER DISENGAGES FROM THE GALLEY AND FLOATS OFF)

65: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(RIGA OPERATING CONTROLS AS THE DOCTOR RUNS UP)

RIGA
We have disengaged. Doctor, can you retract the forcewall?

DOCTOR
(SITTING AND OPERATING CONTROLS) Retracting the forcewall to just the skimmer, yes, done. Don't think it can last long. Not more than thirty minutes…

CORWYN
That's plenty of time. Pilot. Enter destination, we're heading for the mining base.

RIGA
(OPERATING CONTROLS) Sir.

DOCTOR
Commander, I've a far more convenient method of escape than that ship, I mentioned it earlier. From what Aliona said the shuttle isn't ready to launch. There'll be all manner of procedures to get through, now if we head for my TARDIS we can be out of here in moments…

RIGA
Destination entered.

CORWYN
Good. No, Doctor, we're heading for the mining base.

DOCTOR
But it's a needless risk…

CORWYN
It's got a fully powered forcewall of its own, we'll be safe.

DOCTOR
Not if it breaks down, there's still the question of who sabotaged the Alendra, they might still be with us.

CORWYN
That's the point. I don't know who I can trust. Least of all you.

DOCTOR
Me?

CORWYN
You've been invaluable, yes, but I don't know who you are, what you want. I don't even know if this ship of yours exists.

DOCTOR
I've been trying to save everyone!

CORWYN
And people keep dying. You said we'd be safe on the galley. So where did those creatures come from?

DOCTOR
I explained that.

CORWYN
One possible explanation, yes.

DOCTOR
Corwyn, if I'm trying to kill you, I've a funny way of going about it!

CORWYN
Or you're playing a very clever game. My cargo's too precious to risk. I've got to place my trust in certainties, if there's a chance you're leading us into a trap I have to take the safer option. I'm sorry. Pilot, proceed as ordered.

RIGA
Sir.

(SHE OPERATES CONTROLS. THE SKIMMER MOVES)

DOCTOR
Then on your head be it!

(THE DOCTOR STORMS OFF)

CORWYN
He'll get over it.

66: INT. SKIMMER (REAR)

(TYRON BREATHING HEAVILY; TUVOLD TENDING)

TYRON
(MOANING)

DOCTOR
(WALKING UP) Honestly, of all the idiotic, hair brained – !

TUVOLD
Doctor –

DOCTOR
We're not heading for my ship, we're heading for the mining compound. In all my lives I've never seen any individual less fit for command than… well, actually, I've seen several individuals less fit for command than Mister Corwyn, but that's not the point, the point is –

TUVOLD
Doctor! You'll wake the patient.

DOCTOR
What? Oh, yes, Tyron, of course. Sorry. (BEAT) How is he?

TUVOLD
Hard to say. I'm an Ambassador, not a medic. I'm well outside my comfort zone. Trying to enjoy the novelty. He's lost a lot of blood. Riga used a surgeo-graft from the medikit to patch him up, but there's only so much we can do, the sooner we get him back to civilization the better.

DOCTOR
If we get back. We could get him away from here so much more quickly if Corwyn would just listen. –

(THE SKIMMER LURCHES TO A HALT)

Ah. Sounds like we've arrived.

67: EXT. SHARNAX (SWAMP)

(THE SKIMMER CONNECTS AGAIN. IGRIS GROWLING, CIRCLING THE VEHICLE)

68. INT. MINING BASE (CONTROL ROOM)

(DOORS HISS OPEN. THE SURVIVORS ENTER, TYRON LIMPING IN WITH TUVOLD)

ALIONA
Through here.

TUVOLD
Come along, Tyron…

DOCTOR
Not exactly homely, is it?

CORWYN
It hasn't been used in forty years, what did you expect?

KYLO
This is where you were living?

ALIONA
I didn't have much choice.

CORWYN
Riga, do you think you can use those controls?

RIGA
I can try. (SHE MOVES TO THE CONTROLS, STARTS WORKING THEM) Bit old. Rusty. But simple enough. Some rewiring and I might be able to bypass the systems.

CORWYN
Then get on with it. Try to unlock the shuttle launching protocols.

RIGA
Sir.

CORWYN
(TO ALIONA) Are there more rooms?

ALIONA
This corridor.

(ALL BAR RIGA HEAD FOR THE NEXT ROOM. AS THEY GO)

DOCTOR
It would have been so much easier if we'd just gone for the TARDIS.

TUVOLD
I know, Doctor. I know. (ALL BAR RIGA EXIT)

69: INT. MINING BASE (MAIN ROOM)

(A DOOR HISSES OPEN. THE GROUP ENTER)

ALIONA
That corridor there leads to the launch tunnel, two floors below. That way's the bedrooms, kitchen. This is the living quarters.

TUVOLD
Comfy. Tyron, you should sit.

TYRON
Alright.

(HE SITS)

DOCTOR
How are you feeling?

TYRON
Fine. (HE COUGHS AND SPLUTTERS)

DOCTOR
You don't sound fine. You need proper medical attention, that graft won't last long.

TYRON
Long enough.

CORWYN
I'll check the shuttle. Everyone wait here.

(CORWYN DEPARTS)

DOCTOR
Let's see what's happening outside.

(HE PRESSES A BUTTON. A WINDOW COVER SLIDES OPEN. OUTSIDE HUNDREDS OF IGRIS MOVING ABOUT. PACING. GROWLING.

BACK INSIDE THE IGRIS NOISE CONTINUES, MUTED)

TUVOLD
They're still massing.

DOCTOR
They know we're here. And they want us gone.

TUVOLD
Really? I want us gone too. You think it'd be a simple compromise.

(THE DOCTOR CROSSES THE ROOM)

DOCTOR
Er… Kylo…

KYLO
Yes?

DOCTOR
I think it's time we talked about what happened on the Galley, don't you?

TUVOLD
(WARNING) Doctor…

KYLO
No, no, it's quite alright, Tuvold, I can fight my own battles.

DOCTOR
What happened?

KYLO
Well… you saw, didn't you? I set him on fire. I got angry and I set him on fire.

ALIONA
Kylo…

KYLO
I didn't mean to. I didn't. I might not have liked him but I never wanted to kill him.

DOCTOR
I'm glad to hear it.

KYLO
I swear, Doctor, I will make reparation for that man's life. I will. But it was an accident, you have to know that, I didn't want him to die.

DOCTOR
I know. You're a pyro-kinetic aren't you? You can make things burn with your mind?

KYLO
(BEAT) It just happens. When I'm angry, when I lose control…

DOCTOR
Yes?

KYLO
… things burst into flame.

ALIONA
You know about this?

DOCTOR
I know of it. A very specific form of telekinesis.

TUVOLD
Of what?

DOCTOR
The ability to psychically manoeuvre objects without touching them. Our young Prince can't quite do that but he can manipulate matter at a fairly fundamental level. When he gets excited, agitated… so do the molecules of whatever he happens to focus on. They move rapidly, rub up against each other. The friction causes them to burst into flame.

KYLO
That's what it is?

DOCTOR
That's what it is.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
I've always known I was different. I was told. From an early age… my brain doesn't work like other people's.

ALIONA
What are you talking about?

KYLO
Why do you think our Great-Grandfather went mad, split the family? He was like this too. Drove him insane.

ALIONA
I don't understand.

KYLO
There's a recurrent genetic abnormality in the Drashani royal house. In our minds. It's random, it doesn't affect everyone, just some of us. And it affects me. I have a mutated brain.

ALIONA
No.

KYLO
We tried to keep it secret. I took medication to suppress it…

ALIONA
Oh, my love…

KYLO
But it never goes away. It never truly goes. I'm sorry.

ALIONA
For what?

KYLO
That I didn't tell you. I should have told you. (BEAT) Can you still love me? Can you, Aliona?

ALIONA
Oh my beautiful man, how can you even ask?

(THEY KISS)

TUVOLD
Gladdens the heart, doesn't it?

DOCTOR
(UNCONVINCED) Yes.

70: INT. MINING BASE (CONTROL ROOM)

(RIGA OPERATING CONTROLS. FLICKS A SWITCH)

RIGA
Commander, Riga. I'm nearly done. The system's online, I've initiated fuelling procedure, just need to over-ride the key-codes, upload the flight pattern and we can launch. (BEAT) Commander? Commander, are you there? (BEAT) Hmm.

(SHE RETURNS TO WORK)

71: INT. MINING BASE (MAIN ROOM)

(TYRON IS TRYING TO STAND)

KYLO
Tyron, stop, stop, sit down, the Doctor said you should be careful.

TYRON
(BREATHING HEAVILY) I don't want to be careful. I'm a soldier, I've sat long enough. Give me my bow.

(KYLO GIVES HIM IT)

KYLO
If you insist.

(TUVOLD WANDERS OVER TO THE DOCTOR)

TUVOLD
Why are the military always so stubborn?

DOCTOR
It does seem to go with the territory, doesn't it? (BEAT) Well, at least we know what we're dealing with now.

TUVOLD
We do?

DOCTOR
As long as we keep the young Prince calm we shouldn't have to worry about another outburst like on the Galley.

TUVOLD
Hopefully Aliona will prove a calming influence.

DOCTOR
Hopefully. (BEAT) You know, the Commander's been gone an awfully long time. I wonder if he's [alright?]

(THE DOOR TO THE BEDROOMS IS SMASHED APART AND AN IGRIS BURSTS THROUGH)

KYLO
Igris!

TUVOLD
How did they – ?

TYRON
Run!

KYLO
There’s dozens of them!

ALIONA
No!

TYRON
Run!

(HE LOOSES OFF ARROWS, AS THE OTHERS RETREAT. THE IGRIS IS FOLLOWED BY MORE, FLOWING INTO THE ROOM)

KYLO
Aliona, quickly!

ALIONA
But the gun —

(HE DRAGS HER AWAY. TUVOLD GRABS THE WEAPON)

TUVOLD
I’ve got it!

TYRON
I said run!

DOCTOR
Everyone! Head for the shuttle! Quickly!

(THEY PILE THROUGH INTO THE SHUTTLE CORRIDOR. THE DOOR SHUTS)

72: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE CORRIDOR)

(THE DOCTOR FIDDLES WITH THE CONTROLS)

KYLO
How did they get in? I thought the forcewall was up!

DOCTOR
Clearly not any more!

TUVOLD
Our saboteur's back.

DOCTOR
I don't think he was ever gone. Your highnesses! Get to the shuttle!

KYLO
Right, yes, of course. Aliona.

ALIONA
Coming.

(THEY RACE OFF)

DOCTOR
(CALLING OVER HIS SHOULDER) And keep him calm! (TO TYRON) You alright, Tyron?

TYRON
I'll live.

TUVOLD
What are you doing?

DOCTOR
The forcewall may be down, but I can replicate its effects here at least with a variable pulse on the doorway. Won't last long but it'll keep them at bay for a couple of minutes.

(A SHATTERING CRASH FROM THE OTHER SIDE. HE WORKS THE BUTTONS AGAIN. A BURST OF ENERGY)

There. They won't find that so easy to get through. We can head for — ah.

TUVOLD
What's the matter?

DOCTOR
Riga.

TYRON
She’s still in the control room.

DOCTOR
And if she hasn’t unlocked the controls we won’t be able to launch the shuttle. We’ll be trapped.

(THE DOCTOR FIDDLES WITH SOME CONTROLS)

There must be some internal communications systems. I just need to find the right… Ah!

73: INT. MINING BASE (CONTROL ROOM)

(RIGA OPERATING CONTROLS. A BING-BONG CALLING SOUND)

RIGA
(ANSWERING) Yes, Commander, I'm nearly done, the key codes are cracked, you'll be ready to launch in five. That good?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) It's wonderful, but I'm not the Commander.

RIGA
Doctor? Where's Corwyn?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Oh, I think he's safe. Riga, there's a problem. The Igris have broken into the base.

RIGA
What? You let them in?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Not again. I'm trying to save your life.

(THE DOOR SHUDDERS AS IGRIS BATTER IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE)

RIGA
(BEAT) Okay, point taken. What do you want to do?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) I've sent you the data to generate a temporary forcewall on the door, it should hold them back for a few minutes, have you received it?

(SHE TAPS CONTROLS. BEAT)

RIGA
got it!

(SHE RUNS FOR THE DOOR WHICH IS STILL BEING BATTERED)

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Enter the codes into the locking mechanism.

RIGA
I'm way ahead of you. (SHE ENTERS THE CODES) Come on, come on… (SAME PULSE AS PREVIOUS SCENE) Done! (SHE RUNS BACK FOR THE DESK)

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Has it worked?

RIGA
Like a dream. Right, what now?

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Ah, that's just it, I'm afraid. I've no idea.

RIGA
(BEAT) Oh, great rescue plan. Knew there was a reason I didn't like your damn house.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) I'm not Gadarel, Riga.

RIGA
Might as well be.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) We're heading for the launch bay. Do you think you'll be able to get through the living quarters to us?

RIGA
If the Igris are in there, no chance, I'm almost out of arrowbolts.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Then you'll have to find an alternate route over.

RIGA
(OPERATING CONTROLS) I'll check the database.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) Good. We'd better be moving. Keep us informed. Best of luck. Out.

(THE COMMUNICATION CUTS OUT. RIGA PRESSES CONTROLS A BIT MORE)

RIGA
(READING) Alternate route to shuttle bay… none. Trapped.

(THE DOOR IS ROCKED AGAIN)

Looks like I'll just have to work quickly, doesn't it?

74: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE CORRIDOR)

TUVOLD
She's dead, isn't she?

DOCTOR
Let's hope not.

(TYRON THROWS DOWN A MAGAZINE)

TYRON
Right, that's done. One magazine left.

(HE LOADS A NEW MAGAZINE)

TUVOLD
We're out of arrows?

TYRON
Almost, I… oh. (HE SWOONS, NEARLY COLLAPSES. TUVOLD CATCHES HIM)

(THE DOCTOR FINISHES WITH THE BUTTONS, STEPS BACK)

DOCTOR
There, that should hold them back for – Is he alright?

TYRON
Think that run might have been a bit too much.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Then we'll have to help him to the shuttle. Hope the Igris don't beat us there. Come on. I'll give you a hand.

(THEY STRUGGLE OFF)

75: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY)

(LIFT DOORS OPEN. ALIONA AND KYLO CHARGE OUT)

ALIONA
The shuttle, great!

(SHE RUNS FOR IT)

KYLO
Aliona, wait! I need to send the lift back for the others.

ALIONA
Why? We're the one's we need to save.

KYLO
They helped me! (HE OPERATES CONTROLS) I can't —

CORWYN
(BEHIND) Your highness —

ALIONA
(SUDDEN CRY) Behind you!

(KYLO TURNS. CORWYN SLAMS THE BUTT OF HIS BOW ACROSS KYLO'S FACE. WITH A CRY, KYLO DROPS TO THE FLOOR, UNCONSCIOUS)

You — you —

CORWYN
Don't worry, he's not dead. The butt of a bow's not heavy enough to kill. Head of my house, you see, can't just murder him. Have to leave him to the Igris. Keep the blood off my hands.

ALIONA
What?

CORWYN
This would have been so much simpler if we'd all just died on the ship. That was the plan. Why couldn't we all have just died on the ship?

(HE CHARGES HIS BOW)

I'm sorry, your highness. This is how it has to be.

76: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE CORRIDOR)

(THE DOCTOR, TYRON AND TUVOLD HOBBLE UP)

DOCTOR
There. That must be the lift down to the shuttle bay. Rest here. I'll call it.

TUVOLD
Didn't think you'd be so heavy.

TYRON
Sorry. Army rations.

(THEY REST HIM. THE DOCTOR OPERATES CONTROLS ON THE LIFT DOORS. SOMEWHERE BEHIND A DOOR SHATTERS. GROWLS OF APPROACHING IGRIS)

TUVOLD
Doctor?

DOCTOR
The Igris must be through, didn't think it'd take them long.

TYRON
They're behind us?

DOCTOR
And not carrying a dead weight, no offence. Won't take more than a minute or two to catch up…

(TUVOLD CHECKS ALIONA'S GUN)

And I'd rather you didn't use that on them, Tuvold, if it's all the same to you.

TUVOLD
Aliona's gun? Don't worry. Doesn't look like it's fully charged yet.

DOCTOR
Yes. You know, that's odd. Funny thing to have with you on a wedding galley, isn't it, a gun? Hardly the most romantic object in the world…

TYRON
Where's that lift?

DOCTOR
I don't know. Being a bit slow. It's only got two floors to come, can't take long. Unless Corwyn's sabotaged it too.

TUVOLD
(BAFFLED) Corwyn?

DOCTOR
Yes. (BEAT) Corwyn's the saboteur.

TYRON
The Commander?

DOCTOR
Isn't it obvious? Someone let the Igris in here, only Corwyn and Riga had the opportunity. If Riga wanted us dead she could have crashed the lander when we arrived. That's why Corwyn was so difficult about heading for the TARDIS. The last thing he wanted was a swift departure. He's been nothing but awkwardness since we found out Aliona was alive. Are you really telling me you didn't know?

TUVOLD
But why? I thought he wanted peace?

DOCTOR
I suspect you'd have to ask him.

(THE IGRIS ARE REALLY CLOSE NOW)

You know, I do hope this lift gets here on time…

77: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY)

(IN THE BACKGROUND THE LIFT DOORS CLOSE. IT RISES. ALIONA IS BACKING AWAY AS CORWYN ADVANCES)

ALIONA
Please. Please no.

CORWYN
I'm sorry.

ALIONA
Why are you doing this?

CORWYN
Morletz Five, does that mean anything to you?

ALIONA
Should it?

CORWYN
Just more collateral damage to you, isn't it? You're never in the firing line, are you, just sit in your palaces watching other people's corpses pile up fighting your war. Well you're in the firing line now.

ALIONA
If this is some kind of revenge…

CORWYN
My wife was on Morletz Five when your people bombed it. Don't know how they got her out. She hasn't woken up since. If she does she'll be crippled for life even with the best medical care. And I can't afford the best medical care.

ALIONA
Listen to me –

CORWYN
Do you know what a Commander's salary is, highness? A pittance. Barely enough. So when they offered me the deal…

ALIONA
Who?

CORWYN
I don't know their names. Fanatics. Die hard anti-Gadarel fanatics. Millions of credits for a suicide mission. Stop the marriage, she gets a chance to live. I couldn't say no.

ALIONA
But you'd be dead.

CORWYN
Rather she lives than me. (BEAT) Sorry. For what it's worth… I do want peace. But not as much as I want my wife to stop suffering. I'm so sorry about this.

ALIONA
Oh, don't be. Because if I've got any say in the matter, your wife is going to die in unbearable pain and agony.

CORWYN
What?

(SHE SHOOTS HIM. HE DROPS TO HIS KNEES)

Aargh…

ALIONA
She won't last long. But a little bit longer than you.

CORWYN
You — you…

ALIONA
Shot you, yes. Concealed weapons are a bit of a cheat, aren't they… just needed you to drop your guard for a second, thanks for that…

CORWYN
I —

ALIONA
I want peace too. But I want it through victory, not appeasement. My father was killed by your troops. Your stinking, traitorous troops, you think I want that to go for nothing? Get forgotten? I want the peace that comes when every last Sorsha is dead beneath my feet.

CORWYN
I…

ALIONA
Starting with you.

CORWYN
No, I —

(SHE SHOOTS HIM IN THE HEAD. HIS BODY DROPS)

ALIONA
Empire be praised. Now. Kylo, 'my love'. (SHE STRUGGLES TO PICK UP KYLO) Let's get on board… (SHE DRAGS HIM OFF)

78: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE CORRIDOR)

(THE IGRIS REALLY CLOSE NOW)

TUVOLD
Doctor, they're nearly here.

TYRON
I ain't got enough arrows for the lot, you'd better have a plan.

DOCTOR
Not really.

(A PING BEHIND THEM AND THE LIFT DOOR OPENS)

Well, that's given me a lift. Quick, inside.

(THEY STRUGGLE INSIDE WITH TYRON. THE IGRIS ALMOST ON THEM)

79: INT. MINING BASE (LIFT) [CONTINUOUS]

TYRON
They're coming!

TUVOLD
Doctor, we need to hurry!

DOCTOR
I know, I know. Going down!

(HE OPERATES THE LIFT. THE DOORS CLOSE, SHUTTING OUT THE NEARING IGRIS. THEY DROP AWAY)

Well, looks like we got away with that.

(ABOVE, THERE'S A TREMENDOUS WRENCHING SOUND AS THE DOOR IS RIPPED APART. AN IGRIS DROPS DOWN, LANDS ON THE ROOF WITH A THUD)

Maybe not.

TUVOLD
It's on the roof!

(THE IGRIS STARTS TEARING AT THE CEILING)

DOCTOR
Perhaps I can adjust Aliona's gun to stun…

(HE GRABS IT OFF TUVOLD. STARTS TO FIDDLE)

TUVOLD
Doctor, it's not got the power, we've no… time…

(TYRON LUNGES FOR THE LIFT CONTROLS)

DOCTOR
Tyron, what are you — ?

TYRON
Going up!

(THE LIFT STARTS RISING. THE IGRIS IS NEARLY THROUGH)

DOCTOR
There's not enough space up there!

TYRON
I know.

(THE IGRIS IS NEARLY THROUGH. IT SLASHES AND CUTS THE AIR)

DOCTOR
Keep back! Stay away from its claws!

(THE LIFT REACHES THE TOP OF THE SHAFT. WITH A SICKENING CRUNCH THE IGRIS IS CRUSHED. IT SAGS AND DIES)

TUVOLD
That was too close.

(HE OPERATES THE CONTROLS. THE LIFT DESCENDS)

DOCTOR
You killed it!

TYRON
I didn't have much choice!

DOCTOR
(BEAT) I know. I don't have to like it though. Well, hopefully that'll scare them off. We need to get to the Shuttle Bay. Looks like it's our only way out of here…

(THE LIFT DESCENDS)

80: INT. MINING BASE (CONTROL ROOM)

(THE DOOR BEING RIPPED APART)

RIGA
Oh, not yet, just need a few more seconds… The flight plan's nearly uploaded… (BEAT) There!

(SHE OPERATES A CONTROL, SPEAKS INTO THE COMMUNICATOR)

Doctor, Corwyn, don't know if you can hear me, but I'm done, the shuttle's free to go and —

(THE DOOR'S TORN OFF. A SWARM OF IGRIS FLOOD IN)

No!

(SHE SWINGS ROUND AND STARTS TO LOOSE OFF ARROWS)

81: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY)

(THE LIFT DOORS PING OPEN. THE FIREFIGHT FROM THE CONTROL ROOM CONTINUES, DISTORTED OVER SPEAKERS AS TUVOLD AND THE DOCTOR CARRY OUT TYRON)

DOCTOR
Here we are…

TYRON
Doctor, listen!

RIGA
(DISTORT, LOOSING OFF ARROWS) Come on then! Do your worst! Empire be Praised! House Sorsha for - !

(OVER THE SPEAKERS, SHE SCREAMS AND IS TORN APART. THE COMMUNICATOR CUTS OUT)

TUVOLD
She's dead.

DOCTOR
She's not the only one, look!

TUVOLD
Corwyn!

TYRON
He's been shot!

DOCTOR
Yes. Now I wonder who could have done that?

82: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(SMALLISH SHUTTLE. ENGINES GOING. ALIONA AT A DISTANCE OPERATING CONTROLS. KYLO JERKS AWAKE WITH A START)

KYLO
What, where, what — (REGISTERS WHERE HE IS, GROGGY) Where are we, what happened?

ALIONA
Oh, you're awake. We're on the shuttle, how do you feel?

KYLO
Me, I — I'm… I've got an awful headache.

ALIONA
Yes, that'll be Corwyn. He knocked you out.

KYLO
What?

ALIONA
Smashed you in the face with the butt of his bow. You were out cold.

KYLO
Corwyn? Corwyn hit me? Commander Corwyn?

ALIONA
He was your saboteur. He brought down your ship.

KYLO
But — (HE TRIES TO MOVE, REACTS WITH PAIN) I can't stand up…

ALIONA
No, I've tied you to the chair. Yes, good old dependable Corwyn. He'd been bribed by Anti-Gadarel fanatics, he was quite articulate about it. But he can't harm you now. I killed him.

KYLO
What? You — ?

(ALIONA PRESSES A SWITCH ON A DEVICE. A LOW BUZZING SOUND. KYLO GASPS IN PAIN)

ALIONA
Of course, he's not the one you need to worry about.

KYLO
(IN PAIN) What are you — ?

ALIONA
It's a psychic suppressor. We know about your little problem you see, my spies were very thorough. Wouldn't want you… flaring up on me.

KYLO
What are you doing?

ALIONA
Oh my sweet Prince. Still haven't figured it out yet, have you?

KYLO
I don't —

ALIONA
The marriage was a sham. A way to infiltrate your homeworld. Nothing more.

KYLO
(BEAT) No.

ALIONA
You fell for the pretty girl. Oldest trick in the book.

KYLO
What are you talking about?

ALIONA
I don't love you. Never did.

KYLO
But… but you said…!

ALIONA
It was a lie. It was all a lie. Now shut up while I launch this thing.

83: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY)

(THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD WALKING)

DOCTOR
Tyron, do you think you can get to the shuttle? That lift shaft won't stop the Igris long and there's other exit…

TYRON
Reckon I can –

(A ROAR OF ENGINES BUILDS CLOSE BY)

DOCTOR
Oh no…

TUVOLD
Is that – ?

DOCTOR
The shuttle, it's taking off!

(THEY RUN ACROSS THE ROOM, INTO:)

84: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY, NEARBY) [CONTINUOUS]

(THE ROAR OF ENGINES IS LOUDER AS THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD APPROACH, TYRON HOBBLING BEHIND)

TUVOLD
But who's on board?

DOCTOR
Keep back, keep back, the heat'll be too much…

TYRON
They're leaving without us!

DOCTOR
I know, now keep back!

(THEY DRAG TYRON BACK AS WITH A HUGE ROAR THE SHUTTLE LAUNCHES OFF AND AWAY. THE ROAR FADES AS THE ROCKET DIMINISHES. PAUSE. THEY ADVANCE ACROSS THE ROOM)

TUVOLD
It's gone!

DOCTOR
Yes. And we're not. Interesting.

(SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE LIFT DOORS ARE TORN APART)

TUVOLD
Doctor… what's that? The Igris? I think I can hear the Igris.

DOCTOR
Ah, yes, they must have broken out of the lift shaft.

(A HORDE OF THEM SWARM INTO VIEW)

TUVOLD
Agh!

TYRON
There's hundreds of them! Hundreds!

(IGRIS SWARM CLOSER. THE NOISE IS ALMOST OVERWHELMING)

TUVOLD
Doctor, what do we do? There's no way out, they'll kill us all! What do we do? DOCTOR!

(CLOSING THEME)

PART FOUR

OPENING THEME

85: INT. MINING BASE (SHUTTLE BAY, NEARBY) (CONTINUED)

(IGRIS SWARM CLOSER. THE NOISE IS ALMOST OVERWHELMING)

TUVOLD
Doctor, what do we do? There's no way out, they'll kill us all! What do we do? DOCTOR!

(THE DOCTOR FIDDLES WITH ALIONA'S GUN A BIT MORE)

DOCTOR
If you'll give me one second…

TUVOLD
I don't know if we've got -

DOCTOR
And…

(HE PRESSES A BUTTON. ALMOST THE SAME PULSE AS PREVIOUSLY, BUT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TONE. THE IGRIS WAIL AND STOP RUNNING)

TYRON
What's happening?

DOCTOR
(TRIUMPHANT) I knew Aliona's weapon could be set to stun! It recharged just in time!

(THE IGRIS COLLAPSE)

Nighty night.

TYRON
You've knocked them out!

DOCTOR
I have, haven't I? Almost like I planned it. Wonder what the range is on this thing? Hmm. Probably best not to worry about it, really.

TUVOLD
But Doctor —

DOCTOR
Right, with the shuttle gone, our only way off world is my TARDIS.

TUVOLD
The travel capsule you mentioned?

TYRON
The blue box?

DOCTOR
That's the chap. This thing needs to recharge, so we've no defence when the Igris revive. We should get back to the skimmer and find my ship. Quickly.

TUVOLD
Let me guess. More running?

DOCTOR
You're really getting the hang of this. Come on! (HE RUNS OFF)

TUVOLD
Oh, if we must. Tyron — (THEY FOLLOW)

86: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(ALIONA OPERATING CONTROLS)

KYLO
You don't — love me, Aliona?

ALIONA
That's what I said.

KYLO
But… those hours we spent together. The things you told me…

ALIONA
None of them true. It sickened me. All of it. Looking at that face of yours, having to kiss it, kiss it and smile.

KYLO
No.

ALIONA
But you do what you have to do. For the good of your family, the good of your people. If it helps you don't love me either.

KYLO
What? How can you say that!

ALIONA
Not the way you think you do. Pheremones are wonderful things, they can trick the mind into believing all sorts of nonsense.

KYLO
Why you —

(HE MAKES TO STAND. SHE STEPS BACK, PULLS OUT A GUN, CHARGES IT)

ALIONA
Oh, I wouldn't try breaking free if I was you. I've used this laser on one Sorsha today, you think another's going to trouble me? I'd dump your body out that airlock without a second's thought.

KYLO
Aliona, this isn't you. I know you.

ALIONA
You really, really don't. Now. That pilot of yours was very good at her job — Oh, she's dead too, by the way. I stranded your friends on the planet, they're all dead.

KYLO
No.

ALIONA
I did hesitate with Uncle Tuvold, I admit but… he'd such a wretched interest in appeasement, and I can't stand collaborators. Yes, so your Pilot programmed our flight path directly for your homeworld — I didn't have to do a thing. Only trouble is we need to get clear of the planet's atmosphere before I can send my message. I'm going to have to keep you alive a little longer.

KYLO
Why, what's the message?

ALIONA
Just a code, that's all.

KYLO
A code?

ALIONA
Yes. A code. A code that means every single member of your family dies.

87: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(THE DOCTOR CHARGES UP TO THE CONTROLS)

DOCTOR
Seal the doors!

TYRON
(BEHIND) Sealing them!

TUVOLD
Ready!

DOCTOR
Disengaging from airlock!

(HE OPERATES CONTROLS)

88: EXT. SHARNAX (MARSH)

(THE SKIMMER DISENGAGES FROM THE MINING BASE AND FLOATS OFF)

89: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(THE SKIMMER MOVING GENTLY)

DOCTOR
Now let's see if I can drive this thing on my own…

(THE DOCTOR DRIVES, TAPPING CONTROLS AS HE DOES)

TYRON
You know where we're heading?

DOCTOR
Not yet.

TUVOLD
Scan for temporal energies, you said.

DOCTOR
That's what I'm doing. Nothing else here's going to be radiating the same sort of power as my TARDIS. Shouldn't be too hard to find, we can head straight there.

TUVOLD
Then we can get off this planet?

DOCTOR
That's the idea.

(A MONITOR BEEPS)

What was that?

TYRON
That monitor. It flashed.

DOCTOR
Should probably see what it says, then. (BEAT. MUTTERED) Ah, that's not good.

TUVOLD
Doctor?

DOCTOR
Oh, er, nothing.

TUVOLD
Doctor.

DOCTOR
Hmm?

TUVOLD
Doctor, you said 'that's not good'. Given the way the last few hours have gone, you'll forgive me if I find that sentence a little ominous.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Let me put it this way. You remember how the forcewall on this skimmer keeping the Igris away was running out of power?

TUVOLD
Yes.

TYRON
Yeah. (COUGHS)

DOCTOR
Well, it would appear we have to find the TARDIS a little more quickly than I'd anticipated, that's all.

TUVOLD
Excellent. I'll try to radio the rocket, get them to come back for us, they must have thought we wouldn't get out…

DOCTOR
I've a sneaking suspicion that wasn't it.

(TUVOLD STARTS TO OPERATE RADIO CONTROLS)

TUVOLD
Skimmer calling shuttle, come in please. Skimmer calling shuttle, come in…

(TYRON COUGHS)

TYRON
Blood. Oh, Empire – there's blood…

DOCTOR
Maybe you'd better lie down, Tyron.

TYRON
I'm a soldier, Doctor, I don't – (COUGHS AGAIN)

(THE RADIO CRACKLES WITH STATIC)

TUVOLD
Doctor, I've reached the shuttle. (INTO COMMUNICATOR) Skimmer calling shuttle.

(CROSS TO:)

90: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

(TUVOLD'S VOICE DRIFTS OUT OF THE SPEAKERS)

TUVOLD
(DISTORT) Repeat, skimmer calling shuttle, this is Ambassador Tuvold, can anyone hear me?

KYLO
Is that – is that your Uncle?

TUVOLD
Can you hear us, is there anyone there?

(ALIONA OPERATES A SWITCH)

ALIONA
Uncle Tuvold!

(CROSS TO:)

91: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

TUVOLD
Aliona!

ALIONA
(DISTORT) You got out alive! How'd you manage that, did the Doctor overcome his silly pacifist tendencies?

DOCTOR
They're not silly. I was able to make your weapon's effects temporary rather than permanent.

ALIONA
(DISTORT) Good for you, you <u>are</u> clever. Bit of a waste though, they're just dumb animals. They've got to make way for the superior race, it's the natural order.

DOCTOR
You'll never understand.

(CROSS TO:)

92: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

ALIONA
Probably not. Speaking of dumb animals, Kylo's here. You want a word?

DOCTOR
(DISTORTED) Put him on.

(ALIONA DRAGS KYLO OVER)

ALIONA
Here we go.

KYLO
Doctor? Doctor, she says she's going to kill my family…

(CROSS TO:)

93: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR
Yes, I thought as much.

TUVOLD
What?

DOCTOR
It was all too convenient to be real, you see. The marriage that stops the war, based on genuine love. And your mask slipped a bit back on the galley. Some things 'deserve to die', wasn't it? Hardly the sentiment of a born peacemaker.

ALIONA
(DISTORT) Nobody's perfect.

DOCTOR
Bringing a gun was always going to be suspicious but abandoning us was the last straw. The whole wedding was a sham wasn't it? A con?

(CROSS TO:)

94: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

ALIONA
Yes. Fake. I'd never marry him.

KYLO
No…

ALIONA
Shut up!

(KYLO WHIMPERS QUIETLY IN THE BACKGROUND)

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) It was staged. Including the crash?

ALIONA
No, that was the one thing that was real. Fanatics wanting to stop the wedding, wanting to stop peace. If they'd just left me alone, I'd have won the war for them.

(CROSS TO:)

95: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

TUVOLD
This isn't her. It can't be. This is not the niece I knew.

DOCTOR
I'm not sure you ever knew her at all. (INTO RADIO) What was the plan? It was to do with that gun of yours, wasn't it?

(CROSS TO:)

96: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

ALIONA
I can tell you're not a Sorsha. You're smart. You'd make a fine consort for an Empress.

DOCTOR
(DISTORT) I'm flattered, but I suspect it wouldn't work out.

ALIONA
Pity. Yes, we have a larger scale version of the pulse gun, primed and ready. The idea was to infiltrate the Royal Palace and obtain a sample of Sorsha DNA. Wipe out all the pretenders in one stroke. Kill the lot of them.

KYLO
It's not true!

(SHE SMACKS HIM ACROSS THE FACE)

ALIONA
I said be quiet!

(CROSS TO:)

97: INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR
You can give it up now, Aliona. It won't work.

ALIONA
(DISTORT) Really? Why not?

DOCTOR
Because I'm going to stop you.

ALIONA
(DISTORT) From down there? I'm sure your corpse'll find that very easy to do.

DOCTOR
I don't make idle promises, Aliona. We'll be seeing you soon, don't worry. Skimmer out.

(HE SWITCHES OFF THE RADIO)

TYRON
(COUGHS. HE'S VERY WEAK) That's who we were rescuing?

TUVOLD
Doctor, that girl does not speak for me.

DOCTOR
I know that, Tuvold.

TUVOLD
She was such a sweet child. Where did this come from?

DOCTOR
Hatred's irrational, it's a law unto itself.

TUVOLD
Must have fallen into a bad group when she was away from the family, at her studies. Had her mind twisted…

DOCTOR
No, I imagine it was always like that, it usually is. She just hid it very well. (THE CONSOLE BEEPS) Ah, there we are! A huge wave of Artron energy! We've found the TARDIS. Quick as we can then…

(OPERATES CONTROLS. SKIMMER VEERS OFF IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION)

TYRON
(COUGHS)

DOCTOR
You alright, Tyron?

TYRON
(COUGHS AGAIN) No.

DOCTOR
Don't worry, soon have you out of here. The TARDIS can go anywhere, we can use it to get to that shuttle.

TYRON
But didn't you say it was… um…

TUVOLD
'Wilful', I think was the word.

DOCTOR
Yes, it's one thing after another, isn't it? We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

TUVOLD
Doctor… the Igris are massing again.

DOCTOR
I know Tuvold. I know.

(HE DRIVES OFF)

98: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(ALIONA TAPPING THE CONSOLE)

ALIONA
I wonder what he meant, see us soon?

KYLO
How would I know?

ALIONA
He mentioned a capsule. Perhaps he's got another way offworld…

KYLO
Please…

ALIONA
(BEAT) Ah, he's too late anyway. What can he do? We've nearly reached the edge of the atmosphere. It's time.

(SHE WALKS ACROSS THE ROOM, SEARCHES EQUIPMENT)

KYLO
What are you doing?

(SHE LOCATES SOMETHING, A CASE)

ALIONA
Here we are. A medikit. If I remember rightly, DNA readers come as standard…

(SHE OPENS IT)

KYLO
I don't understand.

ALIONA
Useful for skin grafts and the like. Ah, this is it. (SHE PULLS OUT A BOX) Ooh, and a laser scalpel. Nice. (SHE RETRIEVES THE SCALPEL, DISCARDS THE CASE)

KYLO
What are you going to do with that?

(SHE WALKS BACK TOWARDS HIM)

ALIONA
Identify the Sorsha DNA code. It was the only way of getting close enough you see. The marriage. Close enough to get the biological data. Hmm, shame it's not a scanner, really. There was one built into the gun, you could just point it at your target and get a reading, but these… You know how these work?

KYLO
No.

ALIONA
You need a sample. Pop it in the box here then it does the rest. Bit clumsy in comparison.

KYLO
(PANICKY) A… sample?

ALIONA
Oh, don't worry. It needn't be much. No more than a lock of your hair…

(SHE FIRES UP THE LASER)

But your hand will do just as well.

(SHE LASERS OFF HIS HAND. HE SCREAMS IN AGONY)

99: EXT. SHARNAX (ROCKY AREA)

(THE SKIMMER COMES TO A HALT. MASSES OF IGRIS PROWLING AROUND THE AREA)

100. INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(THE SKIMMER MOVING)

DOCTOR
And if you take a glance out of the starboard window, coming up you should see…

(THE SKIMMER STOPS)

The TARDIS!

TUVOLD
That's your ship?

TYRON
(WEAK) The blue box?

DOCTOR
Yes, the blue box! What were you expecting?

TUVOLD
I don't know, something a little more… capsuley.

DOCTOR
Some people are never satisfied. That, gentlemen, is our way offworld. Might not look much, but it's survived a fall from the upper atmosphere with barely a scratch… even if it has landed at a rather rakish angle.

TYRON
How do we get in?

DOCTOR
Through the door on the upper side, how else?

TUVOLD
But there's no airlock. We won't be able to connect the skimmer.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Oh.

TYRON
And there's thousands of those creatures out there.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) Oh.

TUVOLD
We've no mean of reaching those doors before they get us.

DOCTOR
(LONG PAUSE) Oh.

TYRON
That's all you can say, 'oh'?

DOCTOR
Nothing else is coming to mind.

TUVOLD
Can you loop out the forcewall again, like at the Galley?

DOCTOR
It's already fatally unstable. With the additional stress it'd collapse instantly. The moment it goes, they'll tear their way in and destroy us.

TUVOLD
Not looking good, is it?

DOCTOR
No.

101: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(KYLO SOBBING QUIETLY, ALIONA OPERATING CONTROLS)

KYLO
My hand, you cut off my hand!

ALIONA
Shouldn't have touched me with it then, should you?

(HE WAILS IN PAIN)

Oh, does it hurt? Be grateful, it could be worse. The laser scalpel cauterises the wound so there's no blood, it's really rather efficient. Right, let's pop this in here…

(SHE PUTS THE HAND IN THE BOX. CLOSES IT)

And see…

(SHE PRESSES A BUTTON. THE BOX MAKES A SCANNING SOUND. THE BEEPS)

Excellent, the precise DNA breakdown of the Royal House of Sorsha. How generous of you. What a divine wedding gift.

KYLO
You don't have to do this –

ALIONA
Oh, my love, don't cry. I'm happy too. Everything's alright. The pain will be gone soon. It's over. It's all over. It's the end of the war.

(SHE KISSES HIM LIGHTLY)

102. INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL)

(THE IGRIS PROWLING OUTSIDE. CLOSE)

TUVOLD
(BEAT) Let me look at her gun. Maybe we could take them out with…

(THE DOCTOR HANDS HIM IT)

No, still not recharged…

TYRON
How long's it need?

TUVOLD
Five minutes. How long's the forcewall going to last?

DOCTOR
Er… (CHECKS READOUT) Two minutes.

TUVOLD
I see.

DOCTOR
The conclusion's rather mathematically inescapable, isn't it?

TUVOLD
The forcewall can't last til it's ready… so in two minutes they break in and kill us.

DOCTOR
Yes, pretty much.

TYRON
No way out.

DOCTOR
Oh, I wouldn't say that. There's always a way out. Just not always one that's easy to spot in ninety seconds.

TUVOLD
We've pulled up very close, we could probably jump.

TYRON
That's all you got? (COUGHS AGAIN) Come on, we all know what's got to happen, don't we?

DOCTOR
We do?

TYRON
It's me, innit? (COUGHS) This one's got my name all over it. Shira sacrifices herself for peace. So does Riga. Looks like it's my turn…

DOCTOR
Tyron.

TUVOLD
No.

TYRON
Should have died on the ship. With the boys. That's what was supposed to happen…

DOCTOR
You don't have to do this.

TYRON
Look at me! (COUGHS) I'm dead either way, I won't make it home. Rather go out in a blaze of glory than fade away… Where's my bow? (HE FINDS IT, PULLS IT ON UNDER)

DOCTOR
There'll be something else.

TYRON
There won't.

DOCTOR
Tyron, please —

(TYRON RACKS HIS BOW)

TYRON
Either this or I shoot you both now, okay? It'll be a mercy, don't want the Igris getting us. Well? Which is it going to be?

DOCTOR
Tyron —

TYRON
Stop her, alright? For me? Stop the Princess? That's all I want.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) I'll do the very best I can.

TYRON
Be ready to drop the forcefield when I'm set. (WITH A SUPREME EFFORT, HE LEAPS FOR THE LADDER AND STARTS TO CLIMB)

TUVOLD
What's he…?

DOCTOR
He's going to draw them off.

TUVOLD
By jumping from the roof?

DOCTOR
Well, it keeps them away from the airlock.

(TYRON SLAMS OPEN THE HATCH)

We should prepare.

(THEY MOVE OFF)

103: EXT. SHARNAX (ROCKY AREA)

(IGRIS MASSING EVERYWHERE, SLIGHTLY DISTANT BEHIND THE BUZZ OF THE FORCEWALL. TYRON CLAMBERS ONTO THE TOP OF THE SKIMMER. HE UNSHOULDERS HIS BOW. COUGHS. RECOVERS)

TYRON
(CALLING OUT) Right, I'm ready!

(CROSS TO:)

104. INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR
(CALLING OUT) Thank you, Tyron! (TO TUVOLD) The moment they move, we run, got that? Let's get this airlock open. (PRESSES SOME CONTROLS. THE AIRLOCK OPENS)

TUVOLD
You can get us into your ship before they come for us?

DOCTOR
No idea. But it'll be interesting finding out. It's bigger on the inside, by the way, don't let that throw you, we don't have the time. (CALLING OUT) Here we go!

(HE OPERATES A CONTROL)

(CROSS TO:)

105: EXT. SHARNAX (ROCKY AREA) [CONTINUOUS]

(THE FORCEWALL CUTS OUT. THE IGRIS ARE LOUDER)

TYRON
Here I am then, come and get me!

(HE STARTS TO FIRE ARROWS. THE IGRIS SWARM FOR HIM)

Come on! I'm up here! Come on!

(THE IGRIS START TO SWARM ONTO THE ROOF)

That's more like it! Alright then, this way!

(WITH AN EFFORT, HE RUNS AWAY ACROSS THE ROOF AND JUMPS OFF, THE IGRIS PURSUING)

(CROSS TO:)

106. INT. SKIMMER (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR
He's drawn them off! Now!

(TUVOLD AND THE DOCTOR LEAP OUT OF THE AIRLOCK)

(CROSS TO:)

107: EXT. SHARNAX (ROCKY AREA) [CONTINUOUS]

(TYRON LANDS WITH A THUMP)

TYRON
Agh! Stupid… stupid…

(HE LIMPS OFF. THE IGRIS ARE CATCHING UP TO HIM. HE FIRES OFF A FEW MORE ARROWS)

That the best you can do! You dumb animals, think you can —

(AND THEY'RE ON HIM. HE SCREAMS AS HE'S OVERWHELMED)

(CROSS TO:)

108: EXT. SHARNAX (ROCKY AREA, BY TARDIS) [CONTINUOUS]

(THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD THUD ONTO THE TARDIS)

DOCTOR
Here we are. (FUMBLING FOR THE KEY) Come on Doctor, open the door.

TUVOLD
They've got Tyron. He's down. He's dead.

DOCTOR
Don't look back, Tuvold.

(THE IGRIS ARE SWARMING BACK FOR THEM AS THE DOCTOR GOES FOR THE DOOR)

TUVOLD
They've seen us! They're heading back this way.

DOCTOR
I said don't look!

TUVOLD
Still two minutes left to full charge…

DOCTOR
You brought Aliona's gun? You could have left it on the skimmer!

TUVOLD
I had to do something!

(THE DOOR OPENS)

DOCTOR
Done it! Inside!

TUVOLD
You don't have to tell me twice.

(TUVOLD DIVES THROUGH THE DOOR. THE IGRIS ARE REALLY CLOSE NOW)

DOCTOR
Wait for me!

(THE DOCTOR DIVES IN. THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT AS THE IGRIS ARRIVE. IT DEMATERIALISES AS THEY PROWL, ANGRILY)

109: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(KYLO WHIMPERING QUIETLY IN THE BACKGROUND. ALIONA DRUMMING FINGERS)

KYLO
What's… what's happening…

ALIONA
Just waiting to see if they got the message.

KYLO
Who?

ALIONA
Oh, we've agents everywhere on your planet, my love. Loyal men ready to trigger DNA pulses across the world the moment the code comes through. Wipe House Sorsha off the map.

KYLO
You can't do this.

ALIONA
It's already done, I've sent it.

KYLO
It's mass murder.

ALIONA
It's the end of the war. Your family's annihilated thousands, millions of my people. I'm not going to feel guilty about eradicating them in return.

KYLO
But your family's destroyed thousands of my people too!

ALIONA
That's different. Your people deserved it.

KYLO
(BEAT) What are you going to do to me?

ALIONA
Kill you. The moment I know my plan's worked. One shot and straight out the airlock.

KYLO
Why wait? You've killed me already, just finish the job.

ALIONA
Oh no. I want you to know. Before you die. Know for certain your entire family's gone. That they're all dead. And it's your fault.

(A BEEP FROM THE CONSOLE)

Ooh — speaking of which, incoming message …

(SHE READS)

KYLO
What does it say? (ANGRIER) What does it say?

(PAUSE)

ALIONA
Good news, my love. They said my wedding day would be the happiest day of my life. They were right.

KYLO
(GROWING ANGER) No…

ALIONA
The war's over. My people operated the pulse weapon two minutes ago. Your father, your mother, your Aunts, Uncles, cousins, all of them, are dead. Dead. It's done. House Sorsha is no more. (PAUSE) Nothing to say? That's it? No last words for the last of the line?

(HE'S BREATHING HEAVILY)

KYLO
No, not words. Not words. Word. Just one word.

ALIONA
One word? And what word is that?

KYLO
(BEAT) Burn. BURN! (A CRY OF EFFORT) Yargh!

(A COMPUTER BANK ERUPTS IN FIRE)

110: INT. TARDIS

(THE DOCTOR OPERATING CONTROLS)

TUVOLD
It's… it's bigger on the inside…

DOCTOR
I told you not to be distracted by that.

TUVOLD
(BEAT) What… what are you doing?

DOCTOR
Programming our destination. It's quite a small ship and it's in flight, not the easiest target in the world… that's before we even get to the TARDIS' recent temperamental tendency… But then, how hard can a short hop be?

TUVOLD
I wouldn't know.

DOCTOR
(LOUD, DEFENSIVE) I'm doing the best I can, Tegan!

TUVOLD
Sorry?

DOCTOR
(BEAT) My apologies, I was expecting to be criticised, force of habit, I thought you were someone else.

TUVOLD
We should probably —

DOCTOR
Odd that, you know, because she hasn't been around lately. Must be a nervous reaction because I'm heading back for her. Maybe I should make the journey more of a round trip…

TUVOLD
Doctor, we should go.

DOCTOR
Ah. Of course, yes. (HE FINISHES OFF THE BUTTONS) There we are, that's the best I can do, we'll have to hope it's good enough. You ready?

TUVOLD
Not really.

DOCTOR
Good man.

(THE DOCTOR SLAMS THE CONTROLS. THE TARDIS ENGINES ROAR AGAIN)

111: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL)

(KYLO IS CRYING OUT, SCREAMING. FLAMES ERUPTING)

KYLO
I feel the burn inside me! I feel the fire!

ALIONA
But… but the psychic inhibitor…

KYLO
It's not enough! Not nearly enough! You woke it. Whatever it is inside my head, you woke it! Birthed it, nurtured it, made it grow. I'm too powerful now. Too powerful for you, your family, for anyone! They will all burn. If my family are dead everyone will burn!

(MORE ERUPTIONS)

ALIONA
No, my love, please, you can't do this, not after all we've shared!

KYLO
All the lies? All the untruths? (ALMOST TO HIMSELF) What is it you've used to bind me, eh? Just rope? Flammable rope?

(THE ROPE BURST INTO FLAME, DISENTGRATES)

That was careless, wasn't it?

ALIONA
Kylo, please. Please don't burn me!

KYLO
Oh, I won't. Far too quick.

(HE SLAMS A CONTROL SWITCH. THE INNER AIRLOCK DOOR OPENS)

What was it you said? You'd throw my body out this airlock? We're a long way up. Right on the edge of the atmosphere, wasn't it. Quite a fall.

ALIONA
No.

KYLO
I want to make you suffer. Like you made me suffer.

ALIONA
Don't do this!

KYLO
Give me one good reason why not!

ALIONA
(DESPERATE) Because… because I love you!

(BEAT)

KYLO
You…?

ALIONA
Love you, yes. You know I do, please, my Prince.

KYLO
(BEAT) This is a trick, you told me. You told me it was a lie.

ALIONA
It's not. Look into your heart. Think about what you feel.

KYLO
But… why — ?

ALIONA
I didn't have a choice. Your people would never have accepted me. Think about what Corwyn did, the saboteurs on my ship.

KYLO
I —

ALIONA
As long as two families existed there'd always have been hate. We could never have lived in peace. I needed to end the war.

KYLO
But… but why my family, not yours?

ALIONA
Your family ignored you. Held you back, tortured you. Only mattering when you were the last son left.

KYLO
That's not true.

ALIONA
I am my family. Aren't I worth more to you than them? Hold me, Kylo. Please. Hold me. Take me in your arms. I love you.

(PAUSE)

KYLO
My love.

(KYLO WALKS ACROSS THE ROOM. HOLDS HER. KISSES HER. BREAKS APART)

KYLO
Oh, my love, my love, what have you done? What have we both done? This war has destroyed us. We are one. We should be one.

ALIONA
I know.

KYLO
I love you.

ALIONA
Love. (BEAT) Ah. Bless.

(WITH A CRY SHE SHOVES HIM INTO THE AIRLOCK. HITS A DOOR CONTROL, THE INNER DOOR SEALS)

KYLO
(MUFFLED, BANGING AGAINST DOOR) Aliona! Aliona, what are you doing? Let me out of the airlock!

ALIONA
Say hello to your family, my Prince.

(SHE HITS ANOTHER BUTTON. KYLO IS SUCKED OUT OF THE AIRLOCK)

KYLO
(PLUMMETTING AWAY) Noooooooo-!

(HE'S GONE. SHE WALKS OVER)

ALIONA
'Love'. Ha!

(SHE HITS SOME CONTROLS. THE OUTER DOOR SEALS. THE TARDIS MATERIALISES IN A COMPARTMENT OFF)

What in Empire's name…?

112: INT. SHUTTLE (NEARBY)

(THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD STEP OUT OF THE TARDIS)

DOCTOR
(CALLING OUT) Aliona! Aliona, it's the Doctor! Kylo? Can you hear me?

(NO RESPONSE)

Nothing.

TUVOLD
What now?

DOCTOR
Up there. The bridge.

(QUICK STEPS UP TO:)

113: INT. SHUTTLE (CONTROL) [CONTINUOUS]

(THE DOCTOR AND TUVOLD RUSH IN)

DOCTOR
Aliona! Where are you? Aliona!

TUVOLD
Doctor! There, on the floor.

(THEY PULL UP SHORT)

DOCTOR
Oh no.

TUVOLD
Is that his hand or hers?

DOCTOR
Kylo's.

ALIONA
(APPEARING BEHIND THEM) And you can stop right there. Turn around. I've enough charge in this laser for the pair of you.

DOCTOR
You cut off his hand?

ALIONA
He offered it to me in marriage. It would have been churlish to refuse.

TUVOLD
You evil - !

ALIONA
Now, now, Uncle. Don't make me kill a member of my own family… Oh, you brought me my gun! How sweet…

DOCTOR
I can't allow you to use that thing on the Sorsha.

ALIONA
Oh, I don't need to, they're already dead.

DOCTOR
What?

TUVOLD
No.

ALIONA
The whole lot of them. Dead. I transmitted the signal ten minutes ago, House Sorsha no longer exists.

DOCTOR
We're too late?

ALIONA
From where I'm standing, you're bang on time. Any earlier, you might have ruined it.

(SILENCE)

TUVOLD
Doctor?

DOCTOR
We're too late. We failed. She's won.

ALIONA
Oh, don't be too hard on yourself. This is a glorious day. You get to witness it.

DOCTOR
Witness this abomination?

ALIONA
You call peace an abomination? Like I said, Doctor, you haven't lived your life in wartime. You wouldn't understand.

DOCTOR
I've spent more days in war than you've been alive, Princess, and I understand all too well.

ALIONA
The Sorsha are dead. All of them. Even Kylo. Kylo who fell so hard has fallen. Fallen to Sharnax.

DOCTOR
You — ?

ALIONA
Threw him out of the airlock. He can't gain anything from you now, corpses don't feel gratitude, why make a stand of principle?

DOCTOR
Because they're dead. Someone has to.

ALIONA
(BEAT) I'll forgive you your insolence. The Empress is generous in victory. You're wise. There's a place in my cabinet for you if you want it.

DOCTOR
I'd rather rot.

ALIONA
That can be arranged. You, Uncle, standing there so silent. What about you? Must I kill you too?

TUVOLD
One of your house, you'd do that? Your own blood?

ALIONA
What do you think?

(PAUSE)

DOCTOR
Say something, Tuvold. You can't seriously be considering this!

TUVOLD
Can't I? She's right, Doctor. They're gone. Why condemn my family to pain for the sake of the lost?

DOCTOR
Because you're a good man, Tuvold, you can't agree.

TUVOLD
I don't have a choice! Do you know what would happen to my wife, my wife and daughter, if I was named a traitor? What she'd do?

DOCTOR
But —

TUVOLD
Principles cost. You can afford them if you've nothing to lose, the rest of us don't have that luxury.

DOCTOR
Tuvold, please…

TUVOLD
Your highness. I stand with you.

(HE WALKS OVER TO ALIONA)

ALIONA
Excellent. Signal to the fleet. Inform them of my recovery and the death of the Prince. Order them to advance on the Sorsha homeworld, word must be out, there'll only be a token resistance.

DOCTOR
Tuvold, don't do this.

TUVOLD
I'm doing what I have to.

(HE OPERATES COMMUNICATOR CONTROLS)

ALIONA
I'm sorry, Doctor. You could have been a great Gadarel.

(A COMMUNICATOR BEEP)

TUVOLD
Message sent.

ALIONA
Very well. Goodbye Doctor.

TUVOLD
(INSISTENT) The message said Kylo and Aliona died on Sharnax.

ALIONA
What?

(A BLAST OF PULSE WEAPON. ALIONA AND TUVOLD SCREECH IN PAIN)

You — you —

TUVOLD
(WEAKLY) And that an immediate ceasefire is to be declared…

(AGAIN THE PULSE WEAPON FIRES. ALIONA SCREECHES)

I'm sorry Aliona. We failed you. Somewhere… you were lost…

ALIONA
I should kill —

(HE BLASTS HER AGAIN. SHE DIES, THE CARCANET FALLS FROM HER HEAD AND ROLLS AWAY. THE DOCTOR RACES ACROSS THE ROOM TO TUVOLD, TRIES WHATEVER HE CAN TO KEEP HIM ALIVE)

TUVOLD
Is she…?

DOCTOR
She's dead. Stay with me Tuvold, there must be a way to reverse the effects…

TUVOLD
I don't think so. Don't feel… well… Scanned myself, you see, in your ship. Just in case. Couldn't let her win. Couldn't let her take over.

DOCTOR
I know…

TUVOLD
We're family… the DNA code's similar enough. It got her too…

DOCTOR
You're not dead yet, Tuvold, I can still save you.

TUVOLD
Oh, I am dead, I'm gone.

DOCTOR
I can still save one…

TUVOLD
Listen to me, Doctor. It's too late for me… but my daughter. Cheni. She's out there.

DOCTOR
Tuvold —

TUVOLD
She'll be Empress now, she's next in line. Look after her. Keep an eye on her.

DOCTOR
I don't know if I —

TUVOLD
You can. Take Aliona's carcanet, there, where it fell.

DOCTOR
The Carcanet?

(THE DOCTOR MOVES, PICKS IT UP)

Such beautiful jewellery. On such an ugly soul.

TUVOLD
The jewels were mined on Sharnax, you know? Back when the Empire was whole. Take it. Use it as a Royal Warranty. The ship's recorder will prove who you are. Make sure Cheni keeps the Empire safe. Promise me this. Promise this to a dying man.

DOCTOR
(BEAT) I will.

TUVOLD
Thank you Doctor. Thank - .

(HE'S DEAD. THE DOCTOR STARTS TO DEPART. STOPS IN THE EXIT)

DOCTOR
Just one? Would it have been too much to ask that I could have just saved one? (WEARILY) Empire be praised. Empire be praised…

(HE WALKS AWAY. THE TARDIS DEMATERIALISES SHORTLY AFTER)

114. EXT. SHARNAX (SWAMP)

(FADE UP. STAGNANT POOLS BUBBLE. UNKNOWN CREATURES SCUTTLE AND BELCH.)

KYLO
(MOANS) Aliona… I'm hurt… I… I think my leg might be broken…

(A GROWL, SOME WAY OFF)

Igris! Please… No, I —

(THE SNARLING GETS CLOSER. THE IGRIS ARE APPROACHING EN MASSE. A PACK SPLINTER THROUGH DRY BRANCHES)

Stay back! Stay back, all of you or I'll burn this whole swamp, I'll — !

(THE IGRIS GROWL, UNCERTAIN.)

What? You understand me? Yes… yes, you can understand me…

(MORE SNARLS AND GROWLS. BUT THE IGRIS SEEM ALMOST DOCILE…)

I was right. In Empire's name. I WAS RIGHT!

(WITH A CRY AND A MANIACAL LAUGH, HE BURSTS INTO FLAME)

Come my friends! Watch! WATCH! ME! BURN!

(HE BLAZES)

(CLOSING THEME)